

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think it would improve safety to have a metal detector at every school?

YES 79%
NO 21%

GUEST EDITORIAL

Unions one way for teachers to be heard

Before he puts his name to a Supreme Court opinion that is expected to eviscerate public-sector unions, Justice Samuel Alito Jr. should visit West Virginia.

In considering issues in a case argued this week, Mr. Alito has said the fees that unions charge nonmembers for the expense of collective bargaining infringe on workers' "dignity and conscience" by forcing them to fund a union whose political positions they might disagree with.

He would learn something about workers' dignity if he spoke with Katie Endicott, a 31-year-old high school English teacher from Gilbert, W.Va., whose take-home pay is less than \$650 a week. She's one of thousands of teachers who have been on strike for more than a week, shutting schools in all 55 counties of the state.

The state wanted to give 1 percent annual raises for five years to the teachers — who make less than those in all but three states — and have them pay more for health insurance.

"I have two children; I live paycheck to paycheck," Ms. Endicott told *The Times*. "When I realized that they were taking hundreds of dollars and then they tried to tell me they were giving me a pay raise of 1 percent, I knew I can't just sit back."

First she joined hundreds of teachers who flooded the state Capitol on Feb. 2 as

New York Times

legislators considered legislation with the 1 percent raise. It passed the Senate 33-0.

"We were just walking silently from the Capitol," Ms. Endicott related, "and one teacher said, 'Guys, we're really going to have to strike.' At that point, I knew."

Public-sector unions have been the last bastion of worker strength.

Despite Justice Alito's hand-wringing over the right to free speech, the effect of the decision that is expected from the court would be to silence workers and sap their power. The West Virginia teachers are having none of that. While it looked as if the strike was settled last week when the governor agreed to 5 percent raises, the Legislature had not committed to that, and how much workers would pay for health care was still unsettled. So the teachers stayed out.

"We come from an area that is known for standing up for what they believe in," Ms. Endicott said. "The union wars, they originated in the south in Mingo County. We believe we're following in their footsteps."

And, we can hope, these teachers can provide workers throughout the country with a powerful lesson.

Why Daylight Saving Time?

Did you remember to "spring forward" this morning? If not, chances are you were a tad tardy for whatever worship service, if any, you usually attend on Sunday. Even agnostics and atheists can become confused by the concept of Daylight Saving Time.

So why do we get slapped around by the hands of time twice every year? Because "spring forward" and "fall back" are time-honored (no pun intended) traditions in the USA.

I'm sure my attentive readers remembered to "spring forward" one hour in each time zone today, technically at 2 a.m. local time. Like me, they most likely did all that before they went to bed last night. That doesn't mean they liked it. Nor did I. That onerous task is multiplied by the number of watches I own.

By the way, I've heard all the arguments in favor of Daylight Saving Time, but that doesn't mean I buy them. Once upon a time in America, they may have made some sense, but here in 2018, they seem like nonsense to me.

I'm not the only "doubting Thomas" when it comes to the issue of Daylight Saving Time. The concept was controversial when the United States formally adopted it in 1918. It proved so unpopular it was abandoned in 1919. It resurfaced during World War II as "War Time," observed year-round between 1942 and 1945. When the war ended, so did "War

Time."

From 1945 through 1966, there was no such thing as national Daylight Saving Time. Instead, states and localities could use it how and when they wanted to, or not at all.

This diversity in practice created a chronological "Tower of Babel," especially for airlines and TV networks with strict time schedules that transcended states and regions.

In a desperate attempt to bring some order out of chaos, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966. Other acts and amendments followed

in 1973 and 1986. In 2005, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act, which changed both "Spring Forward" and "Fall Back" to their current dates. Still, DST is widely

controversial.

So, we the people have Congress to blame for our discontent with Daylight Saving Time. But wait, don't the members of Congress work for us? Well, they are supposed to, and we have the right to voice our views on DST, and any other issue that piques our interest.

If you agree with me, let your legislators at the state and national levels hear your opinions. Even if you disagree with me, voice your views. That way, our elected officials can feel the "pulse of the people" on the controversial issue of DST.

Retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn can be reached at tbobvomi@blomand.net.

MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN



Creating a love for adoption

Do you want to see what gratitude looks like? Then David Scotton's your man.

David Scotton is a 24-year-old law student with a little movie that has a big message. Adopted at birth, he allowed a filmmaker to follow him as he traveled from New Orleans to Indiana to meet the parents who'd given him up. The resulting short film, "I Lived on Parker Avenue," tells some surprising truths.

One of the first things Scotton's birth mother, Melissa Coles, wants to do is seek forgiveness from the son she'd never known. For so many years, Coles worried that the boy she gave birth to would be hurt by the fact that she'd chosen to "give him up for adoption," as it is often termed. Our language around adoption seems to suggest abandonment, when it is, in fact, a loving sacrifice, a gift.

Melissa had the added guilt that she and her boyfriend considered abortion when she was pregnant with David; she actually went to the clinic, and describes the painful experience of that visit in the film. In one of the most liberating scenes I've ever watched on video, Melissa and David visit the spot where that clinic once stood (it's a health clinic now that no longer does abortions). For him, it's like the opposite of a memorial where something grave happened. It was there where he was given new life, even in the womb. Coles should feel no guilt. She gave life and love to David and his adoptive mom and dad.

The beauty of "I Lived on Parker Avenue" is that it isn't primarily about abortion or even adoption, in some regards, though promotion of "the adoption option" is certainly part of the film's mission. It's about gratitude. One of the most compelling scenes of the 30-minute film occurs when David writes letters detailing what his adoptive family means to him. He wanted

to assure his parents and extended family and friends that meeting his birth parents had nothing to do with finding his "true" parents and everything to do with saying "thank you."

As he tells me, "With only two adoptions to every 100 abortions in the United States, and with the stigma society still unfortunately shares about adoption, it is important to get this film out there. Even though I am adopted, I am no different than a biological child. Even though my parents are my 'adoptive' parents, they are my mom and dad. My 'birth' parents are exactly that: birth parents. Those distinctions are real and need to be shared."

Scotton continues: "This documentary shows the power of one story and the impact one decision can make. It shows how my birth mother's decision to leave the abortion clinic and choose the adoption option gave me the gift of life, gave my parents the gift of their only son and gave my grandparents the gift of their only grandchild."

"I Lived on Parker Avenue" is produced by Joie De Vivre Media and became available the evening of March 8 for free on the website ilivedonparkerave.com. Do yourself a favor and watch it, maybe even host a discussion about it. Adoption is one of these things that we can all afford to think a little more about and consider ways we can support it.

As Scotton puts it to me: "If it's de-stigmatized and more of a viable option for individuals or couples, maybe they'll be more likely to choose adoption and give children just like me, their forever homes."

Be more welcoming. Be more grateful. It's live-giving. Not bad messages for these times.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



Women's Show a great getaway

Everyone, but me, seems to be focused on Daylight Saving Time.

I normally have tunnel vision too. I love it when the time changes and I have more daylight in the evening. During the winter months, I accurately feel like I've worked from daylight to dark. I prefer getting off work and having 2-3 hours of daylight to go and do something productive, such as mow my yard.

However, my attention seems to be further into the year. I saw an announcement of this year's Southern Women's Show and that was it. I've left the building, at least mentally, and I'm on my way to the greatest show on Earth — sorry Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey — in Nashville at the Music City Center.

The part I'm loving the most is this year's show is April 5-8. My birthday is April 7. Yes! Happy birthday to me. If you want to buy me something, just send cash. My birthday bash is going to be at this show. It has "hundreds of boutiques filled with the latest fashions, trendy jewelry, gourmet treats, health and beauty, and so much more."

If you've never been, it's women by the hundreds shopping, sampling, and sharing in the fun and merriment.

If you are into "The Bachelorette," Arie Luyendyk is going to be a celebrity guest. I am not. However, apparently, he has returned as "The Bachelor." I'm not into that either. If you are, he's going to be at the show Friday, April 6 at 2 p.m. Come take a gander, if you're into that rose ceremony stuff.

Also at the show will be Ann Cox Eastes, a consumer specialist and speaker; and Clark Bartram, a personal trainer from the TV show "American Health & Fitness."

Mother Daughter Day is on Sunday. Among the cooking exhibitors, there will be a cake decorating contest for mothers and daughters, or any other combination of family members or friends. Teams of two will compete to try their hands as a pastry chef.

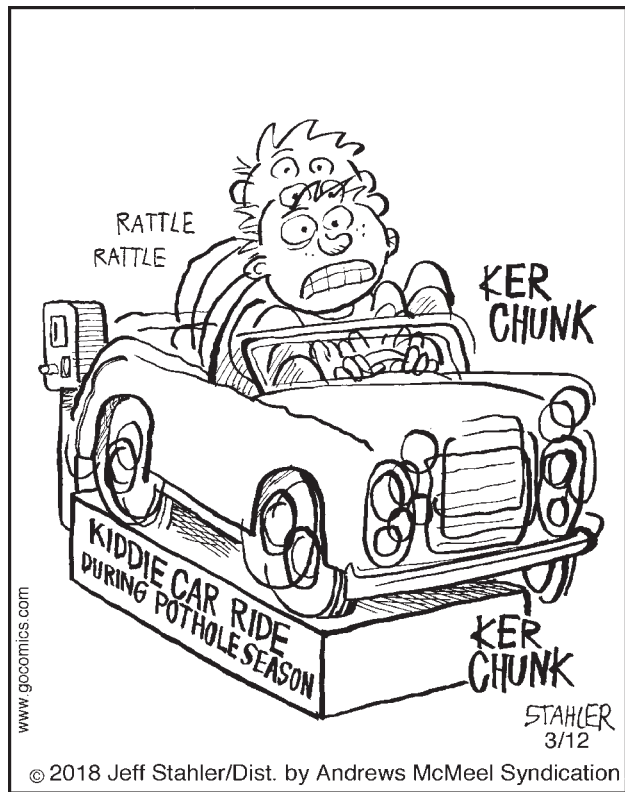
It might be surprising to hear but I'm interested in something called "Calling Cauliflower." Tammy Algood from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will share delicious recipes using cauliflower. I've been thinking about trying my hand at some cauliflower recipes.

The girls and I pick one of the days and go as a group. Our day is usually Saturday, which happens to fall on my birthday. After the show, we stop by a restaurant and relax. If you've never been, it's a lot of walking. There are many vendors. We make a day of it.

My daughter's boyfriend wanted to go last year. I told him he could, as soon as he grows a uterus. He looked at me funny, but I wasn't joking. This is definitely a girls' event.

I can't wait. So, let's hurry up and get past Daylight Saving Time so I can get to the best birthday ever at the Southern Women's Show.

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