

# Opinion

A community forum for viewpoints from around the world to your backyard

## The Clinch County News

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## SPEAK YOUR MIND!

# Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to us at P.O. Box 377, Homerville, Ga., 31634, or e-mail to [mail@theclinchcountynews.com](mailto:mail@theclinchcountynews.com), or visit our website, [www.theclinchcountynews.com](http://www.theclinchcountynews.com).

## Reader suggests focusing on 'important stuff'

Editor, The News:

I think there comes a time in everyone's life where we realize that ambition was often defined by how far we traveled or how much we accomplished. But the 'longer in the tooth' that we get a quieter perspective seems to emerge — one that places less value on milestones and more on meaning.

For some, the traditional checklist of a life well-lived includes destinations, achievements, and recognition. But now we have come to see fulfillment through a different lens. Instead of seeking out the extraordinary, we have found contentment rooted in the presence of those around us who always brought a sense of calm, purpose, and completeness to every-day life.

At one time or another we have all stood in front of world famous landmarks or we chased experiences that helped to define our story. But now we embrace the significance in the quiet consistency of shared moments and memories.

Now we remember waking up beside someone that brought purpose and joy to our existence, for the laughter of children and grandchildren and now we have finally decided to take a walk over to that neighbor's house that you seldom ever visited just to say good morning.

Yes, age brings a subtle but profound shift in the way we remember the past and view the future. Priorities begin to change. The urgency to achieve or accumulate fades, replaced by an appreciation for stability, companionship and memories. What once seemed essential — status, travel, or recognition — becomes secondary to the simple but powerful experience of having those around us who make life feel whole.

Perhaps most striking is the sense of completeness that accompanies this perspective. Even when considering life's unpredictability, there is no lingering sense of something left undone. The measure of fulfillment is no longer tied to a list of accomplishments, but to the presence of a meaningful relationship that gives life depth and clarity.

In a culture that often equates more with better, this quieter philosophy offers a reminder: sometimes, a life well-lived is not defined by how much one does, but by who is there to share it.

Maybe it's time for us all to reacquaint ourselves with those who have brought fulfillment to our life. You know the important stuff.

Thanks for listening to the 'ramblings' of an old man.

**Johnny Allison**  
Homerville



## Believing in nothing delivers a customer

Every couple of hours, I read about some group of people boycotting a national business or company because of some political or religious reason, cancelling this or that. This got me to thinking.

"I don't know anything about the political or religious beliefs of the restaurants I frequent," I said to myself for the sake of this column.

So I decided to do something about it.

"Excuse me, sir," I yelled into the kitchen of my favorite burger joint down the street from my office. "Can I have a moment of your time, please?"

The middle-aged man looked up from the grill in front of him. "Huh?"

"Sir, I eat here frequently and would just like to ask a few questions of you."

"Uh, I'm sort of busy right now. You aren't supposed to be back here."

"I slipped the waitress a \$5," I replied. "This will only take a second."

"Alright, what?"

"First, what church do you attend?"

He furrowed his brow. "I don't attend church. What does that — ."

I interrupted him. "Thank you — interview over."

My next stop was the sandwich shop in town. "Excuse me, may I ask

you a question or two?" "Sure," said the friendly lady behind the counter.

"Are you a Democrat or a Republican?"

The welcoming grin on her face suddenly disappeared. "Uh, what does that have to do with your sandwich order?"

"Nothing, and everything," I countered. "It's only going to determine whether I hate you and ever buy another sandwich from you again."

"Well, I sort of vote for the person, not the party..."

I interrupted her. "Wrong answer. Goodbye forever, madam."

I then went to the chicken restaurant around the corner. When I walked in, the guy who usually fries up my chicken was wearing a horrendously blue-and-orange Florida Gator t-shirt. I immediately turned around, never to come back again.

The next eatery on the list was a Japanese restaurant I go to occasionally.

For some reason,

they were very reticent about letting me into the kitchen to talk to the chef, so I climbed through a window in the back.

"Excuse me, señor," I said to a startled man I assumed was the cook. "What's your favorite color?"

"Wha?"

"What's your favorite color?," I asked again. "No pressure. If your answer doesn't match mine, I'll just never eat here again."

"Here, take this," he said, backing away from me and holding out his spatula. "I have no money."

"So, you're saying you don't like green?"

"No, no," he screamed, whimpering, and lowering himself into a ball under a table.

"How about orange? Is orange your favorite color?"

"Yes, yes," he bellowed.

"Well, I hate to hear that," I said, marking a line through his restaurant's name in my notebook. "I rather enjoyed your steak and shrimp special on Friday nights."



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My favorite pizza joint was last on my list.

"Excuse me, Luigi," I said to the cook behind the counter.

"My name is Carl," he replied.

"Oh, well, Carl, I have a couple of questions for you."

"Shoot." Finally, I willing subject.

"What do you consider yourself: A. A capitalist; B. A communist; C. A Marxist; 4. A socialist; D. A linguist; or G. A fascist?"

"None of the above," said Carl, confidently.

"Well, then, what are you?"

"I'm a nihilist," said Carl.

"What's a nihilist?" "I believe in nothing," he said.

"You believe in nothing? Really?"

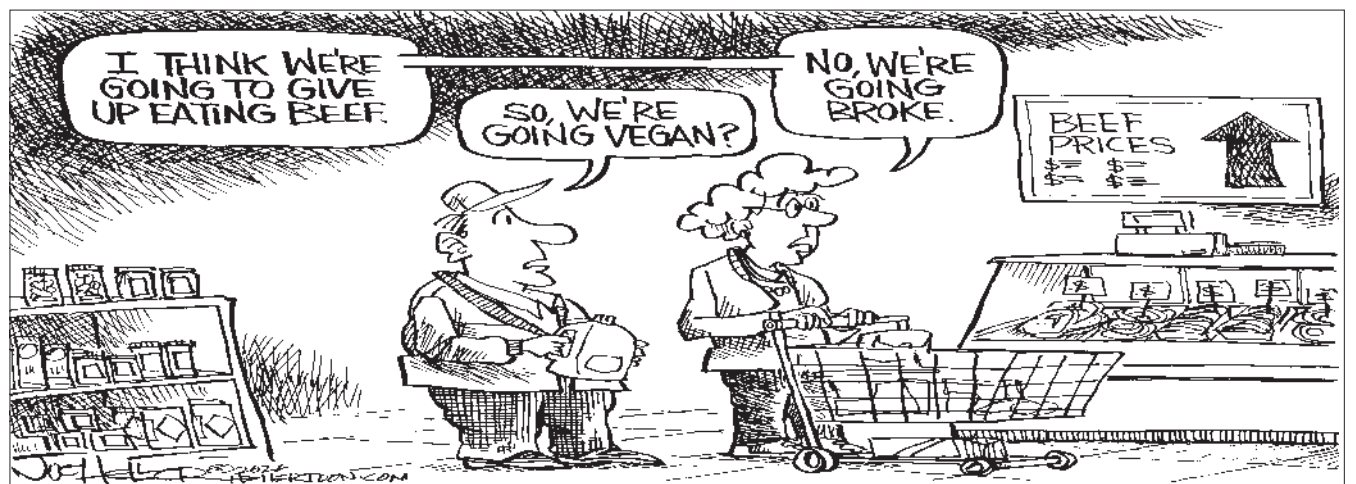
"Yep, that's right," said Carl. "I believe in nothing."

This got me to thinking again. I was hoping to find someone who agrees with me about everything. But, if Carl believes in nothing, there's nothing I can find offensive. And I was also getting rather hungry.

"Carl, I'll have two of your best slices of pepperoni pizza," I requested with a smile.

"Good, now get out of my kitchen."

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## In the beginning ...

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 is a foundational scripture for Christianity.

Regardless of denomination, we share a consensus as to the Who of creation. The how and when, however, are subject to debate, even within each group.

Scripture and science are sometimes challenging to reconcile, so the Christian position has often been one of silence. Perhaps, however, such avoidance has contributed to the decline of today's church. Kids with unanswered questions eventually stop asking, or they seek answers elsewhere.

My opinion, which is admittedly fallible, is that Christians should not shy away from respectful discussion on such topics. I believe it's a disservice to fellow believers and potential believers if we refuse to acknowledge there is room for differing views. When it comes to creation one thing is certain. We don't know what we don't know.

In 1 Timothy 4:7 Paul cautions against arguing over things which don't matter. My intent is not to promote useless debate nor to pretend I have insightful explanations. I believe, however, there are benefits to having

honest and amicable conversations.

Creation is something I've long considered writing about but have been hesitant to address. I'm not qualified to explain theology or science, so I encourage you to make your own prayerful examination. Here is a sampling of things to ponder.

An article in The Macon Telegraph prompted this column. The story was about Ocmulgee Mounds, a settlement of Native Americans considered to be 12,000 to 18,000 years old. If those dates are correct, how does that fit in with Genesis' account of mankind which totals roughly 6,000 years and occurred in another part of the world?

As Christians I believe it's important we don't shy away from questions such as, "How old is man?" Artifacts, presumably man-made, have been dated to tens of thousands of years ago. Human fossils have been discovered from much earlier periods. I have no idea as to the accuracy of such dating, but it's a discussion people of faith should participate in rather than shun.

Genesis includes the story of Cain being punished for taking his brother Abel's life. As God sends him away

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from his presence, Cain expresses fear of being killed by those he would encounter. We're not given details about who Cain was afraid of, so it's reasonable to ask how and when they got there.

The Nephilim, mentioned in the sixth chapter of Genesis, are an intriguing group. Verse 4 reads, "The Nephilim were on earth in those days - and also afterward - when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them." Some believe the Nephilim were fallen angels. I don't know if that's the case, but they apparently had human traits. The Nephilim don't tie in with the biblical story of creation, but could they account for archaeological finds dated to earlier times?

Dinosaurs are another timeline enigma. Scholars generally agree they roamed the earth from 66 to 245 million years ago, which doesn't align with a creation measured in thousands of years. When Christians maintain it does, I believe it damages our credibility. Faith is not dependent on what is provable, but should

never be dismissive of what is factual.

I'm not trying to change anyone's beliefs about creation. The point I'm hoping to make is that Christians should engage in constructive dialogue rather than avoiding it, or giving defensive responses which don't invite further discussion.

My personal view is that Genesis is entirely reliable, but was not intended to be a complete account of what God has done over eons of time. Otherwise we have archeological findings which are inexplicable, plus the rather untenable situation of brothers and sisters having children together.

I believe God is the creator and sustainer of everything - past, present, and future. I consider it an immeasurable blessing that Genesis reveals man was made in God's image. My full confidence and faith are in The Who of creation. If, however, we consider the how and when of creation with open minds along with open Bibles, there is one thing that is certain. We don't know what we don't know.