



■ Letters

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threatened with corporal punishment, suspension, and alternative school for multiple uniform violations. Isn't our objective to keep kids in school except in the most egregious of cases? Should students be denied their constitutional right to an education because of the color of their socks? Let's get our priorities straight!

Alabama DOES NOT require school uniforms. In fact, many districts in Alabama do not require them. Washington County requires uniforms only because WE ALLOW IT. We must stop the nonsense! We must stand up against policies that do not solve REAL problems in our schools. School policies should not be based on the latest fads and should not unnecessarily burden students, parents, or teachers. Above all, our policies should focus on keeping kids in school when possible.

We must exercise our right to demand policies that improve our schools. Together we can ensure our teachers can focus on teaching and our students can focus on learning. Please contact me at dyessli1@millry.net or (251) 846-3170 to share your thoughts.

Lisa Dyess

(ED. NOTE: *What about it, readers? Let's hear from you ... are uniforms the greatest thing since the electric light bulb or have they created more problems than they have solved? Send in your letters and SoundOffs and tell us what you think. – Tommy.)*

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, visits, flowers, and prayers during my illness. I am so thankful for a wonderful family, friends, students, church family, and co-workers.

I am especially thankful to Dr. Manning and Gilbertown Family Medical Clinic, the Gilbertown-based ambulance personnel, and the personnel of Rush Hospital in Meridian.

Please continue to pray for me as I get better. Thanking my God and all,
Regina Long Andrews

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all who called, visited, sent food, cards, flowers, offered prayers, and rendered other acts of Christian love and support to us in our hours of sorrow.

Thank you for caring and may God bless each of you.

The family of Willie P. Curtis

It will be a big job, but not an impossible job, because I believe that the good, decent, concerned citizens of Choctaw County still outnumber the nasty, uncivilized pigs by a pretty good margin, and I am convinced that – working together in this common goal – we can accomplish much.

I know that others are interested, too, and if you, your church, school, business or civic group would like to be a part of the discussion about a countywide recycling program, call Terry at 205-459-8031, or me at 251-843-6397.

■ SoundOff

From page 6-A

some signs together and start picketing? I'm ready to start walking. How about ya'll????

The argument that school uniforms eliminate the fancy-schmancy, expensive, brand-name clothes for kids is sheer ignorance. All these well-off parents do is go and buy their kids' khakis, shirts, shoes and coats with pricey brand names. The socio-economic gap is STILL THERE and uniforms did NOTHING to stop it! I think the schools should worry more about EDUCATING the kids rather than being FASHION COPS.

As a mother, if there is anything else in this world that I detest more than the hassle of finding and maintaining school uniforms, it is being ordered to do so by an arm of the government that essentially says that it knows more than I, as a parent, know about raising and DRESSING my children. Like your other SoundOff caller, I am also thinking of boycotting this dictatorial line of thinking next school year. If the school board members had to buy these uniforms out of THEIR pockets they would be singing a different song! And don't be fed that lie that uniforms are cheaper ... they are NOT and I can prove it to anyone who would like to accompany me on a shopping trip.

I am grateful that your paper recognizes excellence among our children and feel that it merits front-page coverage. I am speaking of the photograph of the spelling bee winners. Thanks, **Sun!** We love your new twice-a-week paper, too.

School uniforms are the worst thing this county could have done to

the students. Anybody old as I am (just turned 54) ought to remember the late 1950's through the mid-70's when all of the TV pictures you saw coming out of communist China, Russia, and the other Iron Curtain countries were row after row of BRAINWASHED, DRESSED-ALIKE ROBOTIC CHILDREN, whom the government wanted to look alike and think alike. Does it not occur to anyone else but me that this not-so-subtle form of control and manipulation is exactly what we have going on right here and now with this school uniform nonsense? If STUDENTS must wear uniforms then so should TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, CAFETERIA WORKERS AND BUS DRIVERS! After all, we wouldn't want a student to see a faculty member with a brand-name, costly outfit on and feel "left out" or inferior, now, would we?

Does the new superintendent know that she cannot change board policy without the board voting to change it? She can make recommendations for changes, but not just change it. Choctaw Co. schools have an approved Code of Conduct, which was approved by the board, and can not be arbitrarily changed. All administrators should be consulted when there is a complaint about a child. The administrators know the facts and the superintendent does not. What happened to the Chain of Command?

I really like that you now have two papers a week. It is good to read the news while it is still fresh. So many small communities are not fortunate enough to have a paper like the **Sun**.

I agree about the need for traffic striping on our roads, but why can't they install those reflectors like the state put on 17 and 10 a few years ago? Those things are great. You can actually SEE them in the rain and fog.

I am a student at SCHS. Thank you so much, Mr. Fred Kimbrough, for inviting us to the play (*Smoke on the Mountain*). It was great! I had never been to a play before. Thank you cast members for your hard work. Thanks again.

Enjoyed Tommy's interview with Ty Herndon. He has a lot of talent, he's "one of us", and I wish the radio stations would play his songs more. I wish he would do a show here.

(ED. NOTE: *Did you see the announcement in our Friday issue last week? Ty's "A Concert For Choctaw County: The Ty Herndon Homecoming" show will be held on Oct. 6th as a fundraiser for the Gilbertown and Friends Relay for Life Octoberfest. Watch the Sun and listen to WPRN Radio for ticket information coming soon! – Tommy.)*

I say AMEN to the person who sounded off about the draft. I would be proud and honored for any of my five children to wear the uniform of the United States Military. I agree, the discipline and dose of patriotism would do all of these teenagers a lot of good.

My hat is off to the directors, cast and support crew who made possible "*Smoke on the Mountain*" by the Ballet and Theatre Arts Performing Companies. My family and I have never laughed as much in our lives, plus it had some great singing and a good Christian message. I hope that you all will consider staging the sequel to this play, "A Sanders Family Christmas" this holiday season. I saw this at a little theatre when I lived out west and I predict that it, too, would be a smash sell-out!

These people who put down our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan make me want to throw up. People like that traitor "Hanoi" Jane Fonda and her stupid, liberal Hollywood cronies are a disgrace to this country. What makes some liberal, left-wing, egotistical, overpaid movie star an expert on anything, pray tell?

Can you please help me find out who I need to talk to about the handicap bus at CCHS not parking in the handicap zone and parking out in the middle of the street and blocking traffic? You see, at CCHS it is a one-way traffic area over there. And when the bus parks in the street and not in the zone that is designated for it, and parents park in that space, then it really makes it hard for the traffic to run smoothly. We have talked to the principal about this and some of us have went to the Board Of Education but so for nothing has been done. When you turn around in the grass to get out of there your child comes home the next day and tells you that they got into trouble about their parents doing that. Well, would someone please tell us what are we supposed to do, then? Sit and wait for the bus driver to park in the area that clearly states, and I quote, "HANDICAPPED PARKING ONLY". The other space that people love to park in is also clearly marked, "FIRE LANE DO NOT PARK".

I heard today that foreigners are about to take over some Butler businesses and that some local residents will lose their jobs as a result. This is NOT right! I don't have anything against folks from other countries, but this is America and I say AMERICAN JOBS SHOULD GO TO AMERICANS FIRST!!! If they fire these people, some of them who have worked there for years, I will not spend another dime at either of those places. It is time to take a stand.

That "Blasphemy Challenge" thing is pure evil. How parents can allow their children to log on to these Satanic websites and videotape themselves cursing and denying God and the Holy Spirit is beyond me. I am so glad to know that we have some DECENT, GODLY teenagers in this county who are standing up to that filth. My prayers are with you children! Thank you and GOD BLESS YOU!!!

I have a request. It bugs the heck out of me to hear people still refer to Southern Choctaw High School as "Silas". Hello! The new school is in GILBERTOWN, people, not SILAS.

I would like to reply to the parent who is griping about her child who has ADHD and is not getting spoon-fed an education. Both of my sons were diagnosed with ADHD by the middle of first grade. They had a 504 plan written for them and the teachers followed the plan as best as they could with an average of 20-25 students in a classroom. The 504 plan also included the parents and homework. It was up to me to make sure my boys did their part and I did my part. They are both now attending the University of West Alabama and doing well. That's because their teachers and I made sure they understood that they shouldn't depend on anyone but themselves to succeed. The 504 was to help them learn to cope with their problem, not a guarantee that they would pass or make good grades. In fact my oldest did fail once in fifth grade because he didn't want to do his work.

I am asking the **Sun**

to do some investigative reporting. There is a teacher in this area who frequents one of the local nightspots. I have become aware of the fact that some of her HIGH SCHOOL students are encouraged to accompany her there, and have done so on more than one occasion. This makes me sick. What business does a TEACHER have being in a saloon anyway? What example does that set for her students? Not much in my opinion. Please see what you can find out on this.

(ED. NOTE: *At this point we can't report anything of substance but we can tell you that we have had several calls concerning this and we have contacted the authorities. If we come up with anything that can be reported rest assured you will read about it here. – Tommy.)*

I agree that the parents that pay child support are not appreciated enough by the "ex" that still wants more but I, too, am a single parent that doesn't get anything from my "ex". I went for several years without saying anything, just letting it go, because at the time my ex-husband was being a dad or at least a part-time one. He would at least get the kids for a weekend a month, but that all changed. Not only did he quit paying completely he quit getting the kids, too. Hey, we put these children on this earth together and I think it's only right for BOTH PARENTS to support and participate in parenting. I know women who won't allow the father to get the kids no matter how much he tries ... that's not me. I want my children to know both parents. ITS TIME FOR US TO BE PARENTS AND QUIT BEING CHILDISH ABOUT BEING DIVORCED!

After hearing that some group wants us to start singing the National Anthem in Spanish, well, enough is enough! Nowhere else do they sing a country's national anthem in a foreign language! The Star Spangled Banner was written IN ENGLISH by Francis Scott Key and should be sung word for word, the way it was written, IN ENGLISH. The news broadcasts showed the lyrics and they aren't even close to what the song really means. Sorry if this offends anyone but this is MY COUNTRY! I am not against immigration, but I do expect immigrants to come here legally. Get a sponsor; have a place to lay your head; get a job; pay your taxes; live by the rules and LEARN THE LANGUAGE as all other immigrants have done in the past. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Now that the Butler Police Department is allowed to give out tickets, does this mean that they are now going to give tickets for parking in handicapped zones? Does this mean also that they are going to do something about the dog on Moody Lane that howls so loud that people around the Norton Street area can hear it?

Hey Colin, I have enjoyed the photos of my nephew, Bryan Winston, in your wonderful sports section. It is great to see that the Tigers are doing great this year. I would like to say to Bryan, great job this season! Continue with your efforts on the court and being a wonderful young man. I look forward to you graduating and continuing to play at a school of your choice. I wish that I could vote for the county player online, because my number one vote would go to you "DUDE"! MUCH LOVE FROM D.C.

I don't buy any other paper. You guys have a great newspaper.

SUBWAY
of Butler

Will be closed for renovation
February 19th, 20th, 21st,
We will re-open
February 22nd at 5:00 P.M.
Ready to serve you
the same delicious
sandwiches and salads
you've grown to love.
Come by and see
our updated Restaurant
We'll be looking for you.

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NOTE: Readers can SoundOff through our website at www.choctawsun.com or in writing by dropping them off at one of our offices or mailing them to P.O. Box 269 Gilbertown, AL 36908. SoundOffs are no longer being taken by phone.

