

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DAILY PRESS

JANUARY 15, 1995

## **I**T'S BETTER TO RECYCLE

Your Dec. 28 photo titled "On the 3rd day of Christmas ..." merits more consideration on its true meaning.

The intent of the photo is unclear. Is it simply to poke fun at the immense amounts of waste generated as a byproduct of our generosity in the name of the Christmas spirit? I believe this to be the case.

However, I suggest that this photo paints a much more serious picture. The true meaning is the photo's reflection of how many people and apparently the city of Hampton and the Daily Press feel about waste management. What this photo shows me is a young person of my community nonchalantly tossing just one more piece of recyclable waste on an already oversized pile of trash.

The citizens would have been better served if the bemused employee waiting for her to finish had taken the time to instruct this young lady that the city offers a limited recycling service that could handle her refuse in a better fashion.

Tim Blevins

Hampton

## MISSION DESCRIBED

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Christian Day School have been the subject of several articles regarding our staff and programs over the past few weeks, most recently with a column written by Jim Spencer. As a private, Christian organization serving Hampton since 1947, we normally do not brief the general public on our affairs. However, due to the acceptance by the Daily Press of a former patron's negative opinions toward our school as the truth, we offer this letter in response.

It is the mission of our school to minister to the safety, well-being and Christian education of the children of our congregation, and to children in our care. The actions of the church will be directed at protecting the integrity of this mission.

We are licensed by the Department of Social Services as a day care center and design our educational programs to track standards for excellence, including tracking achievement through national testing programs. We also provide for spiritual education by the teaching of the Bible and implementation of Christian values, motives, attitudes and discipline.

The Daily Press articles focus on issues regarding our school that occurred several months ago. They were settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, with no malice or illegal actions occurring. The actions under scrutiny were determined to be judgment errors and have been remedied.

Thomas J. Fisher

Congregational President

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Hampton

## CONTRASTING STANCES

I have been reading with great interest all the recent Daily Press news articles concerning the killing and wounding of workers at the abortion clinic in Massachusetts and the suspect's attack on Hillcrest Clinic in Norfolk. In one of them, you included some information on Dr. Sarah Forbes.

I learned of Forbes many years ago when we used to take our young children to the SPCA in Newport News. According to the plaques on the walls, she has contributed a great deal of personal time and money to promote and ensure the well-being of animals.

Normally, I would look upon this as a heartening endeavor had I not discovered in your article that she also "terminates" pregnancies. In other words, Forbes finds it in her heart to save puppies and kittens and "terminates" babies.

I am familiar with the Hippocratic Oath and somehow the meaning of the phrase "do no harm" seems to have evaded doctors who perform abortions. I am totally in opposition to the murderous violence taking place by radical antiabortion elements. However, I am also morally horrified and fundamentally enraged by the murderous violence that takes place inside abortionists' offices as well. Abortion may be legal, but that doesn't mean it's right.

Elizabeth A. Ethridge

Yorktown

#### WHOSE LEGISLATOR?

The Jan. 3 Associated Press story "GOP takeover shifts power to the affluent" makes a big point about how minorities will lose their representation in the new House of Representatives. Apparently the reporter forgot about the gerrymandered districts that were created precisely to give minorities their own congressmen. If Rep. **Bobby Scott** has more minorities in his district than Rep. Herb Bateman does, why should anyone be surprised? They drew the districts that way.

In the "bad old days" districts were drawn along such things as rivers and county lines. No more. There is one district that is as wide as an interstate highway.

In the "bad old days" a congressman was expected to work for the interests of all the citizens. Now he or she is gerrymandered to represent just a certain group.

There is a real danger in this situation. It behooves both the congressman and the constituents to work to have both parties represent both races. Parties should be based on shared beliefs, not race. There are now two African-American Republican congressmen. I would love to see more.

As a York County Republican I hold the sincere hope that anyone believing in conservative principles become involved in our party.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the District Court House in Yorktown. We always need new members, because elections are lots of

work.

Sally Riley

York County

#### EDUCATION'S GAIN

Virginia has an exciting potential revenue source that I hope our Peninsula legislators will support. Riverboat gaming is expected to bring \$123 million in new revenue to Virginia, \$80 million of which will go to the state government to appropriate.

It looks like legislation calling for a referendum on riverboat gaming has a good chance of passing this year. I believe legislators need to do what they can to ensure revenue for our children's education is included in this bill.

Michael A. Whitaker

Newport News

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