

VOICES

THE GREENVILLE NEWS EDITORIAL

Many charities make life better



Cal Thomas Columnist

Damages should be covered

No matter whose side you are on in the upheaval following the killing of Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, everyone should agree on the profound sadness of it all.

Much of the sadness was encapsulated in a sound bite I saw on an TV network. An African-American business owner, surveying the destruction of his store, plaintively asked, "How am I going to feed my kids?"

I have an answer, and it is one that should be applied to anyone convicted of riotous behavior, destruction of property and looting. It's called restitution.

Restitution is an Old Testament concept instituted to remind people that when one harms another person, or steals or destroys property, someone else suffers and deserves reimbursement.

As the authorities in Ferguson examine videos that show the faces of many of the rioters and looters, charges will undoubtedly be filed. If convicted, the perpetrators should be forced to pay for the damage they caused.

Perhaps if people realize that their destructive behavior will cost them something, they think might twice about harming others and robbing them of a living. People from around the country are reportedly donating money to help those whose businesses were destroyed.

If they don't feel ashamed, they should.

In recent weeks Greenville residents have seen the extraordinary benefits that flow from three charities that have their roots in this community, reflect the generous instincts of corporate citizens and contribute greatly to local agencies that do good work right here at home.

Hollingsworth Funds, Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation and SYN-NEX Share the Magic recently announced their distribution of charitable funds in the Greenville area. These are by no means all of the private and corporate foundations and fundraising efforts that each year make such an improvement in our area and help so many people.

Hollingsworth Funds gave more than \$6.6 million locally in grants last month, the result 52 nonprofit organizations, along with Furman University and the YMCA of Greenville, will be better able to fulfill their missions.

Grant recipients ranged from Allen Temple Community Economic Development Corporation to Urban League of the Upstate, from Compass of Carolina to Truist Mercy Center, from Homes of Hope to Project Host.

Hollingsworth Funds grew out of one of the most extraordinary gifts in Greenville's history — one that came from the estate of the late textile industrialist John D. Hollingsworth. Within days of his death in late December 2000, it became known that Hollingsworth had shown his love for Greenville with a breathtaking gift to Furman, the YMCA and other local charities.



SYNNEX executive Peter Larocque, left, presented \$230,462 to Clement's Kindness charity last month in addition to donations to three other charities. Also shown are Knox and Priscilla Haynsworth, and Ben Norwood, right.

immense wealth and had built a vast business empire that included considerable holdings of land.

Hollingsworth bequeathed nearly all of his \$290 million estate to the foundation that bears his name. His will was specific that 45 percent of the income or assets would go to Furman University, 10 percent would go to the Greenville YMCA and the other 45 percent would go to deserving nonprofit organizations in Greenville County. The agency grants are based on a competitive application process.

The first year after Hollingsworth's death, the Fund distributed \$415,000, and by now the total has climbed to \$48 million. In a statement, Ed Good, chairman of the Hollingsworth Funds Board, said, "We are committed to strengthening our community by funding highly effective organizations that bring positive change for Greenville."

Many people in this area are familiar with the generosity associated with Bi-Lo and Bi-Lo Charities. It's encouraging to see the good work continued through The Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports many of the charitable-giving efforts of the new parent company of Bi-Lo and Winn-Dixie supermarkets.

In another major announcement recently, SYNNEX Share the Magic reported it had raised more than \$1.28 million for children in need. This fundraising effort was founded in 2011 by Peter Larocque, president of North America Distribution, SYNNEX, which is based in Greenville.

This is a season when many people are more inclined to give and reflect on the blessings in their own lives. The three announcements last month by Hollingsworth Funds, Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation and SYN-NEX Share the Magic perhaps can inspire other corporations and their leaders to consider the legacy they can leave by helping the less fortunate people in our area.



Kathleen Parker Columnist

Consider media circus

As the curtain closes on the latest episode of "Ferguson," the media series, it is fair to wonder whether events might not have spiraled out of control to the extent they did had the media settled on another topic.

Ebola, say. Remember that one?

I'm not the first to wonder or comment on the media's role in contributing to events, but some further clarifications seem warranted in this case.

First, The Media are neither the same animal nor equal.

In practical terms, the differences are obvious. People in print media observe and relay what they have witnessed, leaving readers to visualize with their own intellectual resources.

And which do you suppose captures the attention of rioters, looters and grandstanders? Certainly not the guy scribbling on a skimmy notepad.

Thus, when we talk about media, we're really talking about television. To the extent that people clown, plunder or pillage for attention, media presence does make a difference.

Cameras not only capture the action but in some cases may well prompt the action.

Still, for the most part, reporters and editors are doing their jobs, trying to bring up-to-date information to the public about events and issues that people are most likely to care about.

The first person to contract Ebola in the U.S. was of paramount interest and entered into every sentient individual's conversation for weeks. It deserved wall-to-wall coverage.

But did Ferguson? Acknowledging that race continues to challenge us and that too many unarmed African-Americans have been shot by white police officers, there still some muddle to the emphasis placed on Ferguson.

To what might we attribute it? "Reliable Sources" host Brian Stelter noted the surge in CNN's ratings the night the grand jury announced no charges would be brought against police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.

It's a compelling story, to be sure. But the intensity of interest was in no small part driven by certain media outlets and "journalists," such as the agenda-driven Rev. Al, who talked of little else in the months since the August shooting.

Finally, what ultimately happened in Ferguson was but a brief incident compared to the weeks-long preamble of speculation that took place across cable news shows.

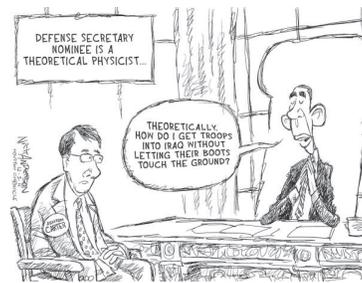
Humanist's letter contained fallacies

It is enlightening to hear from one who calls himself a humanist (Letters, Nov. 7). When we understand the similarities and differences between atheists, humanists and Christians, we become better able to negotiate our "religious terrain" in the Upstate. As a Christian, I find some fallacies in this particular humanist's presentation.

1. The statement that Christians think "we should accept the consequences of bad behavior as part of (God's) plan" is a misinterpretation. Many Christians believe that God did not create humans as "puppets on a string." That would invalidate our sincere and voluntary love of God. People have the ability to make choices, and we must accept responsibility for the results.

God's direction and forgiveness come to those who follow God's leading, as described in the Bible. The Bible teaches that spiritual matters are "foolishness" to those who do not believe in God, but that unbelievers will reap the

LETTERS



consequences of their unbelief. 2. Humanism is "free of theism and other supernatural beliefs. ..." This idea is opposed to the experience of billions of people over the globe from the beginning of time. Spirituality is a significant part of human existence and has been validated by the testimony of all who have experienced it.

As a Christian, I believe in God, and I assure that those who do not are mistaken. However, I live and work together with people of many different beliefs. We should dialog peacefully about our "religious" understandings. Learning about others' beliefs is a positive outcome.

Lamar McCarrell Greenville

Our country should charge rent for illegal immigrants

I am opposed to any kind of amnesty for illegals. I think we should attach a provision that will charge illegals rent for being in our country illegally to any bill that will actually get through Congress. Illegals cost us money in many ways.

We should charge them rent for being here illegally. In fact we could waive the rent if they

leave our country and do not come back. This provision must be designed by attorneys so that it does not require a trail to find that an illegal has not paid his rent. I suggest using some of the provisions that the tyrants at IRS use to collect rent money from the illegal. Another effect is to give the IRS tyrants illegals to chase and take a number of them off of our backs.

Weldon H. Clark Jr. Liberty

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