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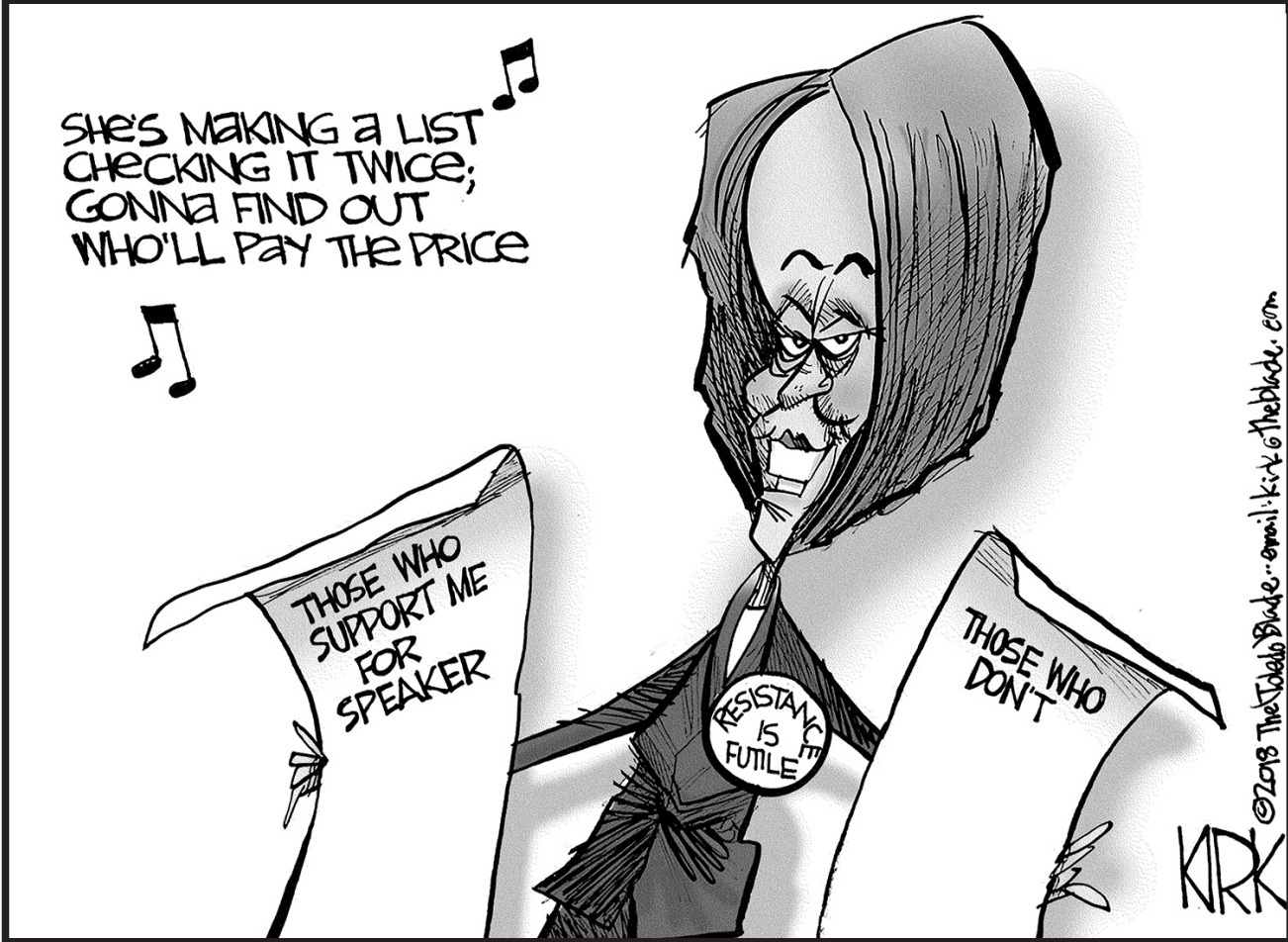
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6135 Winchester Road
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Phone (606) 723-5012, Fax (606) 723-2743
Email: news@estilltribune.com

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Maudie's Naughties



Choosing Hymns

One Sunday a pastor tells his congregation that the church needs some extra money, and he asks the people to consider donating a little more than usual into the offering plate. He says that whoever gives the most will be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates are passed, the pastor glances down and notices that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering.

He is so excited that he immediately shares his joy with his congregation and says he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate. A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raises her hand. The pastor asks her to come to the front.

Slowly she makes her way to the pastor. He tells her how wonderful it is that she gave so much and in thanks asks her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brighten as she looks over the congregation, points to the three most handsome men in the building and says, "I'll take him and him and him."

Man at The Bar

There's a man sitting at a bar just looking at his drink. He stays like that for half an hour. Then, a big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, and just drinks it all down.

The poor man starts crying.

The truck driver says, "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand seeing a man crying."

"No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I'm late to my office. My boss, in an outrage, fires me. When I leave the building to my car, I found out it was stolen. The police say they can do nothing. I get a cab to return home and when I leave it, I remember I left my wallet and credit cards there. The cab driver just drives away. I go home and when I get there, I find my wife sleeping with the gardener. I leave home and come to this bar. And when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."

Quit Smoking

Peter, at a New Year's party, turns to his friend, Ken, and asks for a cigarette.

"I thought you made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking," Ken responds.

"I'm in the process of quitting," replies Peter with a grin. "Right now, I am in the middle of phase one."

"Phase one?" wonders Ken.

"Yeah," laughs Peter, "I've quit buying."

New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, Daniel is in no shape to drive, so he sensibly leaves his van in the car park and walks home. As he is wobbling along, he is stopped by a policeman.

"What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?" asks the police officer.

"I'm on my way to a lecture," answers Roger.

"And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?" inquires the constable sarcastically.

"My wife," slurred Daniel grimly.

The Big Boys

An elderly gentleman is walking down the street when he sees a young lad who is crying so hard that he is shaking. Taking compassion, the old gent bends over and pats the boy on the head, saying, "There, there. What seems to be the problem?"

The young man raises his tear streaked face and blurts out, "I can't do the things the big boys do."

So, the elderly gentleman sits down on the curb next to him and cries with him.

Dead Donkey

A minister awakens one morning to find a dead donkey in his front yard. He has no idea how it got there, but he knows he has to get rid of it. So, he calls the sanitation department, the health department, and several other agencies, but no one seems able to help him. In desperation, the good reverend calls the mayor and asks what should be done.

The mayor must have been having a bad day. "Why bother me?" he asks. "You're a clergyman. It's your job to bury the dead."

The pastor loses his cool. "Yes," he snaps, "But I thought I should at least notify the next-of-kin."

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell

CorridorHR@Gmail.Com



Chicago Bears, the 2nd Amendment and Satan

So, I have been a huge Bears fan since the 80's. I loved watching Walter Peyton run the ball. The Bears' defensive back then was just vicious. The Bears' victory over the Rams Sunday night got me to thinking about defense. The Bears' defense owned the Rams, Sunday night.

The game got me to thinking about my personal and spiritual defense; How important defense is to keep the evil away. I have heard offense sells tickets, but defense wins games. **1st Peter 5:8** says "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

I have three lines of home defense to keep evil from scoring. My first line is three dogs: Izzy, Cassie and Boone. My second line is a home security system. My final line of defense is a .45, 1911 pistol and a Remington 870 12 gauge. This is how I protect my family from evil.

I cringe every time I hear anti-2nd amendment talk. If our guns are taken away, then law abiding citizens lose a line of defense. Evil people will always be walking about. Always vigilant always prepared.

I have three lines of spiritual defense to keep evil from scoring. The first line is Jesus in my heart. My 2nd line is the Bible. My 3rd line is prayer. This is how I protect my spiritual life. No matter what, I cannot be defeated with that defense.

Jesus, Bible, and Prayer are all under attack constantly. That's just biblical. Persecution is coming but having those three in your life will keep the lion's mouth shut. Life is tough but without God it's impossible in my eyes.

Christmas is just around the corner. Don't forget the true meaning of Christmas. This year seek His presence not His presents. Seek the Savior whom we are celebrating. Until next week.

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