

BOB
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AIDS 'cure' is available in the Falls

As much as Akron-area worshippers are going to miss Knute Larson, who retired from The Chapel last month, the beloved preacher failed to cure a single case of AIDS.

What a slacker.

Now, if you want some *real* action from the pulpit, head to Grace Cathedral in Cuyahoga Falls. That's where the Rev. Ernest Angleley routinely heals AIDS patients, according to his Web site.

"It is no harder for God to heal AIDS than for Him to heal anything else. Mark my words: There will be many, many AIDS victims God will heal if they turn to Him in their desperation and say, 'God, I have sinned against you. God I was wrong. God, I failed you.'"

Angleley doesn't just cure AIDS locally. Flying around the globe in his personal 747, he swoops down and heals people of all nationalities. Check out one of the many testimonials:

"The Lord has done great things in my life, healing me from the deadly disease of AIDS," writes a fan in Balaka, Malawi. "I will always pray for you and the Jesus ministry which you are leading."

A partial list of other overseas maladies Angleley is credited with healing: kidney failure, blindness, deafness, diabetes, an inflamed appendix, a broken hip, cancer, gangrene and tuberculosis.

Heck, Angleley doesn't even need to be present. His Web site also informs us that "untold multitudes have been healed as they put their hand against mine on the screen."

Just think of all the money we've been wasting on the Centers for Disease Control.

Loose lips

As I have noted previously, recalling Akron's mayor is a bad idea. If you think the guy is arrogant and vindictive and spends too much money, fine - vote him out of office. But a recall election isn't just another chance to vote. It is supposed to be reserved for criminal misdeeds. And Don Plusquellic has yet to be charged with a single crime.

Unfortunately, The Don seems determined to supply his opponents with free ammunition. During a recent group interview at the Plain Dealer, he compared the ringleader of the recall movement, Warner Mendenhall, to some of history's most evil manipulators.

"[Mendenhall] has his core group of people that believe in him," Plusquellic intoned. "So did Jim Jones. So did Hitler."

Part of the mayor's appeal has been his career-long refusal to invoke empty political clichés. But this crack was ridiculous and offensive.

Counterattack

Tammy Gildersleeve of Rootstown, responding to a column about the ever-growing number of charity appeals at stores, restaurants and offices, wanted to pass along "how my husband and I handle the cheerful little beggars at Wal-Mart."

When the couple approaches solicitors, she says, "my husband whispers, 'Phones up!' That's my cue - if I haven't noticed the table with the coin can on it yet - to whip out my cell phone and begin an urgent conversation with, of course, nobody."

The tactic has worked perfectly - although she fears this confession might change that.

She does have a backup plan. If needed, she will simply ramp up her fake call:

"Whadya mean, you've ELOPED?! We've got 500 PEOPLE coming to the church in ONE HOUR!"

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Help them before they name again

I'm telling you this right now:
We need to form a Summit
County Name-Screening
Bureau.

It would be staffed by people
with common decency who
would veto dumb, tacky and/or
overly cute names.

I have been advocating this
since the local park system was
renamed "Metro Parks, Serving
Summit County."

Now we have another park
system wandering down the
wrong trail.

The Cuyahoga Valley
National Park Association and
the National Park Service have
formed a club for folks interested
in backpacking, hiking and
camping. Its nickname: "the ED-
Venture Group."

The full name is even worse:
"Educating for Adventure in the
Cuyahoga Valley."

City parks are no better.
Goodyear Heights resident
Christy Ramsey points out that,
while the park across from
Goodyear Heights Presbyterian
Church is generally referred to
as "Gazebo Park," its official
name is "Public Square Triangle
Park."

Would that be a square
triangle or a triangular square?

Not so cute

Reader Chuck Goodwill
wanted to give his
granddaughter a souvenir after
she competed for Massillon's
Washington High School in a
cross-country meet at GlenOak.
So he shelled out 10 bucks for a
neon green T-shirt that read
"Eagle Invitational '09" in the
front and had a cute saying on
the back: "How's my running?
Call 1-800-EAT-DUST."

Only later did he discover
that the made-up number is
actually in use – and has nothing
to do with running.

"To my horror," he says, "the
number has been dialed by most
of the kids and is a porno line."
Not just any porno line. A she-
male porno line.

"Oooh," says a male voice.
"Have you packed your
pantyhose, bras and panties?"

For a mere \$3.99 per minute,
you and your credit card can
have "a live, one-on-one talk
with the she-male of your
fantasies."

More like my nightmares.

Double meaning

There's a new deli in
Highland Square called "Mr.
Zub's."

Sounds sort of cute and
meaningless – unless you speak
Arabic. In that case, the word is
very close to the word for a
certain male appendage.

Granted, not a high
percentage of people in Akron
are fluent in Arabic. But one of
them works just a few doors
down, at Aladdin's Eatery.

Aladdin owner Marwan
Lahham says most of the time
the word in question is "zib," but
he also has heard it pronounced
"zub."

The guy behind the name,
Copley native Mario Nemr, says
it was taken from a childhood
nickname. He thought it would
be a catchy moniker for his new
deli:

"It's got a quirky name, and
the sandwiches all are quirky, so
it just kind of made sense."

Well, it is a lot better than
"Mr. Zub's, Serving Highland
Square."

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Yard signs as common as leaves

We have entered that glorious season when citizens all across this great land stand up and exercise their constitutional right to ruin the aesthetics of their own neighborhood.

Ever seen a really, really attractive campaign sign?

Several area communities have taken a shot at limiting the litter.

Hudson once had a law that prohibited signs bigger than 8 square feet. But Summit County Republican Party boss Alex Arshinkoff and his wife, Karen, pushed the issue and got the law overturned in court – with help from the American Civil Liberties Union. (Talk about strange bedfellows.)

Bath, Fairlawn, Silver Lake and Barberton are among a slew of area communities that have had a variety of rules covering the size, number and timing of political signs. Many towns have required deposits to encourage postelection cleanup.

But whenever the ACLU wants to push the matter, a community inevitably winds up losing in court on First Amendment grounds.

Too bad. It's not as if we have total freedom of sign expression. You can't put up a big yard sign that says, "Eat McDonald's hamburgers." We should be able to put reasonable regulations on political signs, too.

Deal breaker

Business owner James Althouse of Hudson received a resume with a cover letter that included this sentence:

"I'm seeking a company whom takes quality serious."

Ironical timing

Monday night: Summit County Council outlaws texting while driving.

Tuesday morning: Norton Police Department issues news release saying the department will begin sending text messages about accidents, road closings and traffic conditions.

Shoddy journalism

Monday morning: Headline on the Web site of Cleveland television station WOIO (Channel 19): "Akron Mayor DUI."

Monday evening: Prime-time tease for WOIO's 11 p.m. newscast: "Framed?"

Yeah, he was framed. Framed by WOIO – which slapped up the "DUI" allegation based on anonymous phone calls – before even talking to the man in question or asking for a police report.

Refund update

This might be the worst 30 bucks anyone has ever spent.

The Summit County Board of Elections mulled things over some more and decided it will not return the filing fee paid by a candidate for a race that didn't exist.

As we noted earlier, Mark Hilbish of Mogadore wanted to run for an unexpired term on his village council. He went to the elections board, took out petitions, collected 49 signatures and turned them in. A day later, the elections board called and said Mogadore's charter calls for an appointee to fill the entire unexpired term. No race after all.

Now, wouldn't you think the guy would get his money back?

Nay. The Summit County prosecutor's office said the state law is ironclad – "In no case shall a filing fee be returned" – and a second opinion from the state attorney general backed that up.

As board member Brian Daley noted during a meeting, this is "unfortunate, since it appears to be a mistake made by the board."

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