

"She's yours!"

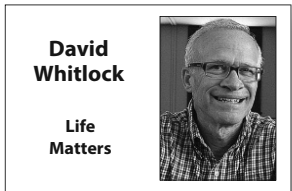
My son, David, was telling me of that moment last week when the nurse handed his newborn baby girl, Stella, to him. His wife, Kayla, had been in labor for hours. I don't pretend to know what she had been through, but I do know something of the feelings---pride, humility, awe, wonder, and relief--- that cascade on dad at once when the nurse first introduces a him to his child. I've had two by birth and two by adoption. When a dad takes that one into his arms as his own, it's bound to melt the soul of even the most austere of dads.

"Can I hold her?" David asked the nurse.

"Of course! She's yours," she said.

"Of course! She's yours," those words sunk in my heart, too.

I remember that moment for me. How could I forget? I felt like asking, "Does an owner's manual come with this?" I wanted to brag, "Yes! I'm the man!" and at the same moment confess, "I'm so small. I'm not sure I'm up to this."



But mainly, it was joy, pure joy.

"I'm choking up even as I'm thinking about it, Dad," David said, his voice breaking as he unsuccessfully held back tears.

It's a moment for a parent to grasp, hold, and recount as a momma or daddy jumps on board the parenting roller coaster for life.

"Yes, she's yours, David," I think I told my son.

"But, then again, she's not. At least, not completely."

But I didn't say that to him, not then. It will come to him soon enough, I'm sure.

Our children belong to the Lord; we only have them "on loan."

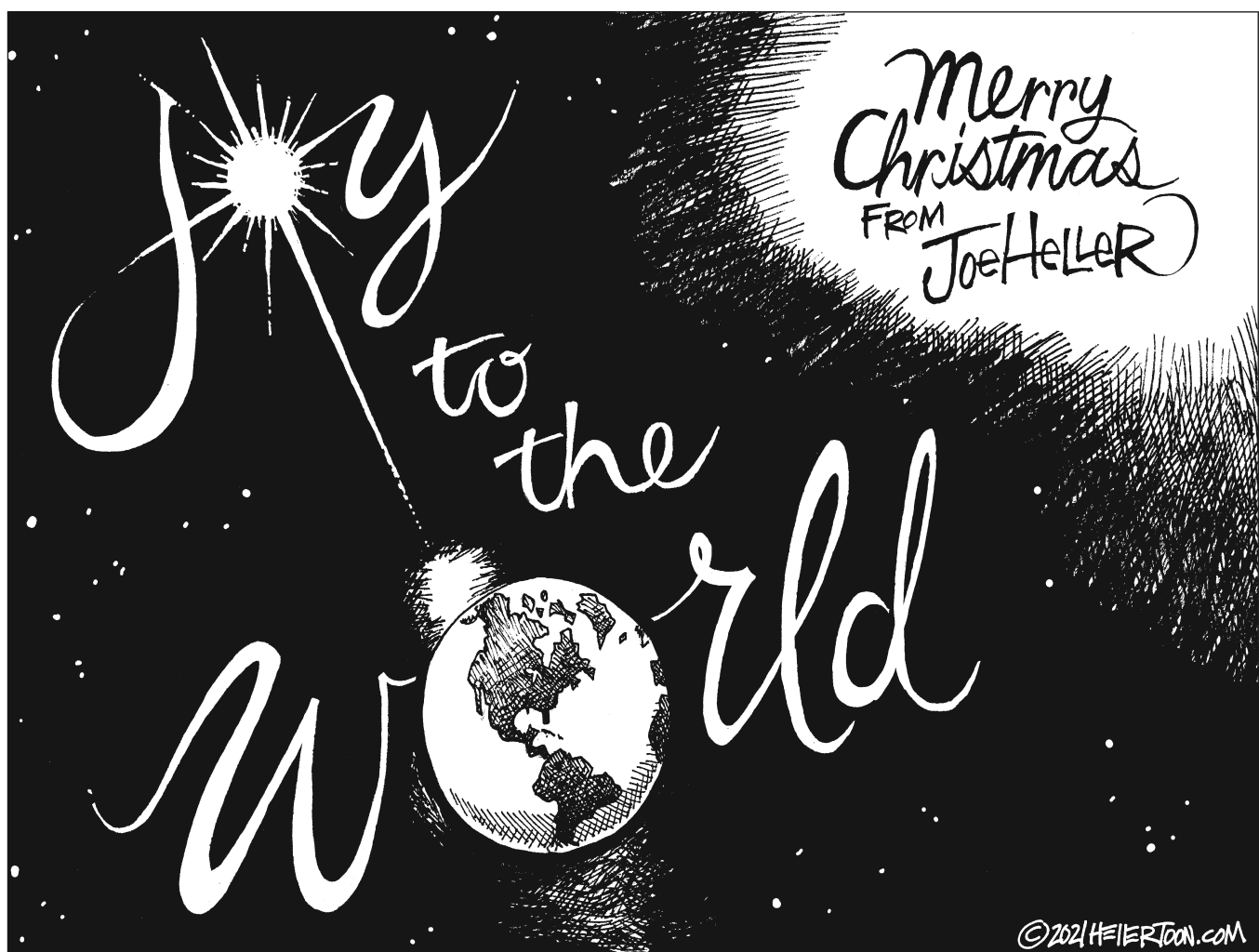
Or as Kahlil Gibran said it in his poem, "On Children":

"Your children are not your children. They are sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. And though they are with you yet they belong not to you."

We don't "own" our children. They are unique, each one being their own person. Although we bring them into the world, and although we definitely have a tremendous influence on them, we do not determine who they are.

With Christmas only a few days away, I think of Joseph, the legal or earthly father of Jesus. Jesus' conception, according to the gospel accounts, was like no other. According to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The gospels indicate that Joseph was not only a "righteous man," and a considerate husband, but also a father who was involved in the life of his child, Jesus. He and Mary took Jesus to the temple for his circumcision and the Passover celebration when Jesus was twelve. Although Jesus got left behind on the return trip, it was likely not a result of parental neglect. It was common for children to travel back with the parental clan. You get the sense that when they found that

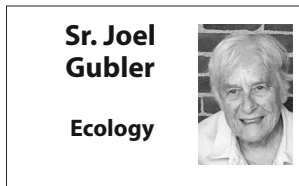
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The Christmas Star

Practically every Christmas scene portrays a bright star in the sky over the manger in Bethlehem, and many portray three wise men, miles away, following that new star in search of a royal event.

Throughout the centuries there have been many scientific explanations of this bright light that appeared in the heavens at the time



of the birth of Jesus.

The most popular version is that the planets Jupiter and Venus appeared in close proximity of each other in the year 2 b.c. - Ju-

piter then known as the "regal star" - and there hasn't been as close a conjunction since then.

Another explanation for that bright heavenly light was the appearance of Halley's comet in the years 2 and 3 b.c., during the reign of Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor who ordered a census to be taken at that time, which had brought

Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.

Regardless of various explanations, during this Christmas season Christians continue to believe that God was announcing to the world the arrival of a Savior by illuminating the heavens for this blessed event.

Christmas Shopping

Everybody loves a cheerful giver at Christmas time.

Too bad I'm not a cheerful giver. It would make the season so much more enjoyable for me.

For one thing, I'm not a shopper. It's something about that outflow of cash that dampens my spirit. Am I the only person that found Scrooge to be a sympathetic creature before his conversion at the graveyard?

What?

Oh. So I am the only person that found Scrooge to be a sympathetic creature before his conversion at the graveyard.

Well, that was a little embarrassing.

Forget I said anything.

Cindy is the cheerful giver at our house. I'm the chief elf and package wrapper. Cindy just absolutely loves hunting for the perfect gift for our kids and grandkids. They better hope I go first because things would be pretty sparse around the old Begley household if I'm the one left in-charge. You know you can only give out so many chia pets before you end up on the naughty list.

Food is another good reason I should go first. Cindy always whips up these incredible gourmet meals at holiday time that our offspring and anyone else within two hundred

miles descend upon and suck up with all the force of a Hoover wind tunnel vacuum cleaner. The only hot meals you could get out of me would be toast. Sometimes I add a little peanut butter and jelly. The toast is usually burnt.

But occasionally Cindy tries to hedge her bets by sending me off to get little items that I can't mess up. You know, so if she does go first our offspring won't be living in the middle of the desolate, barren Sahara as far as gifts are concerned, especially around Christmas time.

For instance, I was going to be down Louisville the other day anyway and she



sent me to get some Christmas socks. I don't mean they had some Christmas theme on the socks. I mean just socks. Cindy's theory for me is you have to start little and build up.

What could go wrong?

So anyway, I was down Louisville last week with my big store \$10 off coupon, notice how Cindy was easing me into spending

See GIFTS, page 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor,

The person Mr. Rick Greenwell, referred to in a previous letter, making a very unkind remark to a Republican speaker, does not represent the beliefs and ideals of the Woman's Democratic Party of Washington County. One person's remark does not define a group. I have been a member of this group since its inception in 2015. At no time, have I ever heard spoken anything, but profound respect for our veterans, active military, and law enforcement. Each and every meeting begins with the

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and the reciting of our mission statement. Our mission statement is "We the Democratic Woman's Club of Washington County believe in equality for all, and a system that works for everyone."

As to address the statement of "the big city, left coast Democratic thinking, coming to our county", could not be further from the truth. We are veterans, teachers, community office holders, farmers, retired people, moving here for that small town feeling, Dominican Sisters of Peace, and the Loren-

tine Sisters of Loretto.

I encourage everyone to join the inclusive party, the party who welcomes all...The Democratic Party, before Dec. 31.

Belle Sutton
Springfield

To the Editor:

As a local elected Democratic office holder, wife of a retired Sgt. Major 26 years Army veteran and a niece of an uncle who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War I am writing in response to Mr.

Rick Greenwell, chairman of the Republican party letter to the editor.

I was not at the Democratic Women's Club meeting which you addressed in your letter, therefore, I really can't address what happened. What I can tell you is that as a Democrat I have the ultimate respect for our military, respect for flag and especially for God who has given us this beautiful country. I know most of the women in that group and I can say they believe in this too. One person's disrespectful words should not represent this entire

group. Both parties have addressed this behavior which I feel was correct.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

Let us all work together to make Washington County and our country a better place for us to live.

JoAnne Mudd Miller
Washington Circuit Clerk

Letters to the Editor

The Springfield Sun welcomes letters to the Editor on topics of public interest. Timely letters about local topics will receive priority in placement.

The Sun reserves the right to edit for brevity, content and clarity all letters submitted for publication. Below are some guidelines for having your letter published.

- Only original letters will be published and submissions must be clearly labeled as submissions for "Letter to the Editor."
- Please keep letters short and to the point, with a recommended length of 250 words. Letters must include a printed name and signature of the author, as well as address and phone number for our contact purposes. Unsigned letters and ones without contact information will not be published.
- Submissions can be mailed or submitted in person at 108, Progress Avenue, Springfield, Kentucky 40069, or through our website at www.thespringfieldsun.com.

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