

Paris ... from Page 4A

which I like. Having said that, my Facebook page is not a Union County government page but is my personal page.

Q. What kind of information do you provide on Facebook that would be of interest to the public?

A. I generally provide info on meetings I attend, on events and festivals in the county and any weather or public safety issues of the county including winter road condition reports. I hope it gives people an opportunity to know and understand a little more about me and our government, including our employees and the great job they do serving you.

Q. What do you enjoy most about Facebook?

A. Seeing personal photos that others place on there about their vacations, their families, their pets and their children. You will NEVER see more beautiful photos of ba-

bies and children and families. It is also a great way for those in need to ask for prayers for healing or just for unnamed needs.

Q. Do you Tweet on Twitter?

A. No. That seems to be more popular in other parts of the country, but not so much in Union County and I simply do not have any additional time.

Q. Does it take a lot of time to be on Facebook?

A. You can spend as little or as much time as you want. The problem for me is that if you do it correctly, it is time consuming although enjoyable and rewarding. There are so many nice and caring people on Facebook, but finding adequate time is always a challenge.

Q. How do we become your "friend" on Facebook?

A. Just send me a "friend request" through Facebook.

Leone...continued from Page 4A

That's better than a pot of gold to this kid.

As I graduated on to the "junior" room, my researching skills were honed. I loved to write, so the opportunity to find documentation to support my essays, in this house of tomes, was one of the few true pleasures I remember of academia.

From the time I came out of the womb, I was a social animal. Not much has changed in nearly six decades. I still want to be where the action is, participating in all the senses, and chatting with anyone that is in earshot. Yet, when I enter a library I metamorphose into another creature. I become quiet, introspective, not paying any attention to what is going on around me, but only on my quest to find another bit of knowledge. The silence, that if I were anywhere else, I would find deafening, is now solace to me as I make my way around the periodicals, discovering that there is a magazine on nearly any topic you can find of curiosity.

As a young adult, I had a myriad of jobs, including making vanilla phosphates for doctors in the hospital canteen, short order cook at a luncheon grill, and I even taught guitar lessons, mostly to folks much older than myself. As long as I was dealing with the public, I enjoyed what I was doing. The summer between my junior and senior year of college, I took a job at the college library. I was not working in the "front" end of the business, but I was directed on my first day to a room in the back, where stacks of books that had been donated to the library were ready to be categorized and the Dewey decimal system applied.

It was autonomous in nature, and for eight weeks, I was like a monk in the basement of the monastery, sorting through the archives. To this day, it was my favorite job I ever held. I did

give consideration to attending graduate school for library science. I knew in my heart that it wasn't my calling. I was destined for other roles of service, and to hide in the stack of books was selfish. Though I never stop dreaming of the time when my life will allow me that opportunity to again be so self-indulgent.

Twice this past week I visited our local library, in person. I say "in person", because now I do most of my research on the computer and then just order the books via the Pines Library Online, and wait for the email that tells me my books are now ready for pick-up. This library has no great steps leading to the doors, and there isn't a whiff of mustiness when one enters. It is still quiet, but not silent, as you can hear the clicking of keyboards entering the computers that serve as digital card catalogs.

The times have altered some of the experience, but not all of it. While checking my books out, (and yes Mom, I had a fine for overdue books that had to be paid. Some things never change), I looked over my shoulder and saw little ones walking around the children's reading room with that same look of wonderment that I remember feeling... actually, that I still feel each time I enter this castle of erudition.

This month you will pay your property taxes to the Union County Tax Commissioner. This library experience that I share with you wouldn't be possible without those taxes. That is true of roads that will be salted for your safety these coming months, and the Kris Kringle Market being held at the Union County Farmers Market this weekend. It's all "free" because we, as taxpayers, share the burden of community, of education and of opportunity. The children in the reading room thank you.

Cheves ...from Page 4A

Charter Application, then click Union County Charter System Application. Six questions are supposed to be answered in this application, the first one being "What will you be able to do with a charter that you can't do without a charter?" I have some experience as an editor, and as author of legal briefs, and in my judgment the answer to this question is verbose, longwinded and mostly unresponsive. The application is supposed to reveal student performance standards for the proposed charter term, and I couldn't identify any performance standards that required a conversion to charter status with waiver of state regulations. It should reveal specific actions the system will take "to achieve your student performance objectives," but it is vague and mostly unresponsive, and certainly doesn't reveal any actions that could not be taken without conversion to charter. It boasts of a new Portuguese language program to be introduced in K - 5. Instead of teaching a language spoken in far off Brazil, whose citizens are rarely encountered in the U.S., isn't it far more important that our school system concentrates on Spanish? Most disturbing, perhaps, is the section that which state laws and regulations would

be waived. It mentions such laws as those dealing with remedial education, limited English proficient programs, and gifted programs

Georgia's Charter Schools Act of 1998 provides that the State Board must assure that a proposed charter system will be nonsectarian and nonreligious.

Click Exhibit 8 to the application and you will find our school board's response to a requirement for a list of partnerships with non-profits and the nature of services provided, including any potential conflicts of interest. The application names six local protestant churches, but does not reveal what services these churches would provide to the new charter system, nor does it disclose the obvious conflicts of interests, not to mention conflicts with laws and judicial decisions, which would result from services provided by local churches.

If after reviewing these materials you have serious reservations about conversion to a charter system, as I do, I suggest you contact Louis J. Erste, Charter Schools Division Director, Georgia Department of Education, at Lerste@doe.k12.ga.us and let him know.

Charles Cheves

Parris...from Page 4A

They are known by the name of Grumble.

The weather is always is too hot or too cold, Summer and winter alike they scold;

Nothing goes right with the folks you meet

Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

They growl at the rain, and they growl at the sun.

In fact, their growling is never done.

And if everything pleased them, there isn't a doubt

They'd growl that they'd nothing to grumble about.

And the worst thing is that if anyone stays

Among them too long he will learn their ways,

And before he dreams of the terrible jumble

He's adopted into the family of Grumble.

So it were wisest to keep our feet

From wandering into Grumbling Street;

And never to growl, whatever we do,

Lest we be mistaken for Grumblers too.

So whenever you are tempted to tell your troubles to other people, remember that half of your listeners aren't interested and the other half is glad you're finally getting what's coming to you.

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

Joe stole ball and went to the basket for a lay-up. The young man missed the shot turned toward his friend Paul and cursed because of his missed shot. Paul the referee called a technical foul because of the cursing. Hackleburgh made 2 foul shots and received the ball at half court with 3 seconds left in the game. The arch rival of Phil Campbell won the game with a long jump shot from the top of the key. All of Paul's friends and family refused to talk to him for two weeks. He was even ostracized by his parents and brother.

So, once again the young man was down in the mouth about his circumstances. However, he wasn't down for long. After all, he still had his girlfriend. So, Paul didn't care what others thought as long as Shirley, who would become my mother two years later, thought well of him.

I know many of you are down in the mouth because

the Farmers Market has been closed for a month. But, better times are coming and the Farmers Market is open for two days this week. The Kris Kringle Market will open on Friday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. We will have a bonfire on Friday evening where children can roast marshmallows.

There will be a Christmas Train on Saturday which can be ridden by children. Santa Claus will be with us on Saturday. If you wish, you can enter a dessert contest on Saturday morning by bringing the dessert to the Office at 9 a.m. Your children can also hear the Christmas Story read on Saturday.

Last but not least is you will have the opportunity to purchase produce, fruit and crafts at the market. There are many outstanding vendors lined up for the Kris Kringle Market. So, come and be with us at the Kris Kringle Market on Friday and Saturday.

Williams ...from Page 4A

p.m. and 6 p.m. to experience our Holly Jolly Christmas and Tour of Trees free community event. Bring your family and enjoy refreshments, kids' activities, and musical performances. You can also tour the beautiful Christmas trees and wreaths that are sponsored by our local Chamber Members. Trees and wreaths will remain on display through the month of December.

A special thanks to the Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors Union County for sponsoring the Tour of Trees and the following local businesses who are participating in the Jingle Bell Buys Weekend: The Vacuum Store, Struts Shoe Store, Natural Treatments for Brain & Body, Mary Kay Cosmetics - Roberta L. Ford, Aspen Hearth & Home, Stitch & Whimsy, Mountain Yoga, Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus, Waffle House, Curves of Blairsville, Union County Historical Society, Pat's Hallmark Shop, reVive! Reflexology & Natural Therapies, Huddle House, Blimpie Subs & Salads, Old Country Store, Union Power Sports, Mountain Crossings, SherryO Arts & Crafts & Gail's Gifts, Candles By Jean, Origami Owl, The Aviator Café, Nelson's ACE Hardware, Alpha Drug Testing Services, From Me 2 U Gifts, Azzarello Photography, Fabric Center and

Quilt Shop, The Clothes Rack, Big Bear Antiques, GnG Bakery & Café, Robynne's Nest Gifts, and Junebug's Consignment Cottage.

Ramsey ...from Page 4A

not "Protestants," and should not be referred to as such. In fact, the denomination removed the word "Protestant" from its official name; and sometime in the early 1940s, I witnessed the removal of the word "Protestant" from signboards in front of the Episcopal churches.

Some months back, this same column, in speaking of the generosity of this country, made the rather inane comment that we even gave funds

to war-ravished countries. (I assumed she meant after World War II.)

Well, duh! It was the least we could do after we virtually destroyed them and killed and maimed their citizens. Historians have pointed out that our generosity was an act of self-interest, however; i.e., to keep these countries from falling into the arms of communism. The Cold War, you know.

Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey