

# Comment

## Inn should be grateful for town services

Water and sewer are essential to the Town of Washington for ALL residents. All residents are going to incur the same percentage increase to offset the costs for maintaining these essential services.

The bills are determined by usage. Given that The Inn at Little Washington is the biggest user, it's obvious that it will have the greatest cost increase. The inn also creates the greatest demand for both of these systems.

The water system is old. It needs repairs to ensure that all residents have water. The sewer system is aging and requires maintenance to keep running. As we all know, costs are going up for everything including repairs to said systems. To cover costs, rates go up — period.

I wonder if the inn has considered the alternative? A failure in either water or sewer will shut it down completely until fixed. No matter how pretty the

rooms are, it will not solve the problem of either of these systems failing. We all know what this is like. We already saw what happened when the water system breaks. Simply recall when a valve at the bottom of my driveway let go a couple years ago. No water or sewer — no business — period.

The inn should be grateful that the Town Council is working toward making sure these very essential services keep working so that it can conduct business. Water and sewer are part of operating costs for everyone. Perhaps the inn should put more appropriate attention to these essential utilities and the maintenance?

For once it would be nice to see the inn acknowledge the work of the Town Council to keep things running, rather than hiring lawyers to whine about how it is being unfairly charged.

WENDY MURDOCH  
Washington

## Expertly handling a dangerous home invader

A huge black snake slithered down the living room bookcase late last Friday and slid across Ellis' bare feet. Ellis let out a yell that got me running from the kitchen, but the snake had disappeared into a pile of wires connected to the stereo equipment.

I grabbed a broom, then a fire poker, then a rake to locate the snake, but it had vanished. Pest control was closed. My neighbors were away. The fire department said that snake hunting was out of its area of responsibility.

There was only one thing to do: Call Sheriff Connie Compton's office. Bingo! Deputy Ken West came immediately, carrying a long steel

pole with a snare on the end. As the good detective that he is, he told us to be calm and quiet. We waited. Watched. In about five minutes, the snake poked his head out from under the harpsichord.

In a flash, Deputy West had the snake in his snare. He calmly carried the snake to the ravine by the house, released it and wished us a happy and good night. We all are so lucky to live here in Rappahannock where law enforcement is both helpful and effective, and where snakes of many kinds can be captured and returned to their native habitat.

JUDY HOPE  
Washington

## Protesting all the way to the ballot box

In his June 19 column in the Rappahannock News, Richard Brady seems puzzled by the recent vigorous and robust protests in the county about the current administration.

His confusion is neither here nor there.

Americans enjoy a right (some would argue a responsibility) to protest and let their displeasure known when their elected government disappoints them.

And, Mr. Brady, you quoted Rudy Giuliani calling those unhappy with the 2016 election results "crybabies." What about the traitorous behavior of the Jan. 6 protesters illegally assaulting law

enforcement officers and trashing the U.S. Capitol while being egged on by the Grifter-in-Chief. And all the lawsuits that proved there was no election interference in 2020.

And still they foment the lie.

Finally, Mr. Brady callously says: "And please, don't start with all the shuck and jive about losing our precious democracy," as the current system gave us Trump, a 34-time convicted felon.

Some system.

Rest assured, Mr. Brady, we will continue to protest all the way to the ballot box.

TONY TRUJILLO  
Flint Hill

## Wisdom for our times, from past times

BY JOHN W. KISER, III,  
VALENTIN AKSILENKO AND  
MELANIE KOPJANSKI

As world leaders struggle to resolve seemingly intractable conflicts, the diversity of apocalyptic scenarios continues to increase. In seeking optimistic and practical solutions, it would be appropriate to turn to spiritual leaders who can achieve harmony between the material and spiritual life of man and then on the inevitable coming transition of humanity to the triumph of spirit over matter. The death of Pope Francis and the response throughout the world reflects a hunger for decency and love toward all of creation, especially the poor and forgotten.

In reality, we are talking about the universal spirit that can be found in the lives and works of Martin Luther King, Jr., Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi, Ghaffar Khan, Nelson Mandela, Albert Schweitzer, Emir Abdelkader and others who were following the spiritual laws passed down by our Creator: love and non-violence — suffering evil but not returning it. It is up to us to get advice from their collective wisdom regarding ways and means to address the deepening world crisis.

Martin Luther King expressed, more clearly than anyone, the fateful choice that humanity has to make: "We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools." To survive we are obliged to carry out a turnover in our consciousness and morals in the coming years, but this cannot happen without moral guidance.

One iconic figure of the 19th century is Emir Abdelkader al Jilani, the Algerian religious, military leader who led resistance to French colonization but ultimately surrendered and was detained in France for five years in the mid-1800s. While France was figuring out what to do with the emir, Abdelkader attracted a diverse group of sympathizers that lobbied for his liberation. These sympathizers included bankers, British nobility, bishops, poets, local schoolteachers and soldiers of all ranks, including

former prisoners.

They were called "Kaderians," collectives known for their dislike of sectarian and human divisions. The Koran quotes, "If God wanted, he could have made us all the same, instead, God created different tribes and nations so that they might learn to know one another and compete in good works." Islam views all creation as God's work and all religions as resting on two pillars: love of God and compassion towards His creatures. In 1846 a town in Iowa was named Elkader in the emir's honor, a testimonial to the influence of an Arab warrior/holy man whose impact was felt throughout much of the world and continues to be rediscovered today in Muslim and non-Muslim countries.

In 2028, 200 years will have passed since the birth of Leo Tolstoy. We have three years to start the inevitable moral revelation Tolstoy foresaw on his deathbed in 1910. World War I, World War II, Cold War, Colonial Liberation Wars were events that shifted the inevitable moral revolution that was described by Tolstoy and his co-thinkers into the 21st century:

"What is needed is not constitutions and revolutions, conferences and congresses nor devices for submarine navigation or more powerful explosives but one thing only is needed — the knowledge of simple and clear truth. One law is valid: the law of decency which can bring the highest happiness to every individual as well as to all mankind. There is only one permanent revolution — a moral one, the regeneration of the inner man. Nobody knows how it will occur in humanity, yet every man feels it clearly in himself. Yet, in our world everybody thinks of transforming humanity and nobody thinks of transforming himself."

The authors are an unlikely mix, an agnostic New England boarding school author, a high-ranking former KGB officer and a local Rappahannock mother. This is part of The Four Thinkers Project along with the Sant Egidio Foundation for Peace and Dialogue.

"We are a nation  
of guided missiles  
and unguided  
men."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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