

# OPINIONS . . . OURS . . . YOURS . . . THEIRS

## Brexit a victory for fear over hope; a word from Scotland

*No man is an island, no man stands alone*

*Each man's joy is joy to me*

*Each man's grief is my own*

*We need one another, so I will defend*

*Each man as my brother*

*Each man as my friend*

— by Joan Whitney and Alex Kramer, 1950, based on a meditation by the English poet John Donne (1572-1631)

If all else fails, follow the money. The market's 600-point drop on Friday and continued drop on Monday in reaction to Great Britain's vote to leave the European Union ("Brexit") was predictable. In a single day, the financial markets lost \$2 trillion, which is greater than the gross national product of Canada. This makes me sick because common sense says it was completely avoidable.

The Brits' vote, as I see it, was a victory for fear over hope, for building walls, not bridges, for demagoguery over reasoned, measured responses.

It was a step forward for nationalism that can lead to war, and a step backward for internationalism and understanding among the peoples of the world that leads to peace.

We can only hope that the markets with our retirement funds and a lot more will straighten out over time, but that is most likely to happen when nations realize that none can go it alone, that no nation is an island, that we need each other, and that, as the poet John Donne wrote 400 years ago, "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."

Translated: We are interconnected. You cannot have peace when half the world is dieting while the other half is starving. The European Union is better than 28 nations squabbling about currencies and borders. Our ability to lift each other up, as Germany — one of the strongest members of the EU — did to prevent Greece from collapsing a while back, lends stability to our world, and our markets.

The point is, we need one another. Caring for each other makes each of us more secure. We see this in our local communities when friends and neighbors reach out to help those in need. Their stories are frequently chronicled in *The NSP*. The principle is the same when nations agree to help each other, just on a bigger scale.

Applying this to our domestic politics, the choice is plain. I cannot and will not support any candidate who would rather build walls than bridges, who seeks scapegoats rather than solutions.

The markets know. Follow the money.  
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**Scots are shocked:** I sought a second opinion on Brexit from my friend, Bob Tomlinson, a broadcast journalist from Glasgow, Scotland. We once served together for three years on Rotary's worldwide public image committee.

"What's next for Scotland and UK that I might share with my readers?" I asked in an email. "My opinion," I continued, "is that the world needs groups like Rotary now more than ever to build bridges, not walls! Do you agree?"

Within 24 hours Bob happily replied:

### Impressions



by Bill Tubbs

"Bill, so good to hear from you. Scots are shocked as we voted 68 percent to 32 percent to remain in the European Union. Scotland has always been very pro Europe. Our Scottish government has always said that if England voted out and they tried to take us out of Europe then we would have another vote to leave the UK. That will happen.

"However, this UK decision is much more than in or out of Europe. The UK is a divided society. The appeal of Sanders and Corbyn is interesting. In the USA and the UK (and other Western countries) many people no longer feel any connection to politicians or politics. The rich have become richer and the poor poorer. This divide creates alienation and distress.

"Rotary, and what Rotary stands for, has probably never been needed more than it is now. Rotarians are needed to give unconditional support and service to those in need. We have to give this without judgment or condition.

"Kindest regards from rainy Scotland."

Bob clarified that those views are his own and are not part of official Rotary policy, as do I. We're just volunteers trying to do the right things in our own communities — and trying to build bridges across continents. It is interesting that our points of view on Brexit are so similar.  
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**Happenings:** A update on happenings here at *The NSP* and our affiliated *Wilton-Durant Advocate News*. Our reporter, Sarah Hayden's, father, Lawrence Hayden of Davenport, died at age 79 last week. His amazing life story is in the obituary in Section B of this week's paper. Stories that Sarah was working on will appear in future issues.

Editor Scott Campbell traveled all the way to Cedar Falls to provide the bonus coverage of the North Scott trap shooting team that appears in Section B this week, too. Thanks to our sponsors who make this, and other, special projects, possible! Scott will be back later this week after a few days off, but the news continues with Mark and Erin and the rest of us.

I decided a while back not to make the 28-hour trip to Melbourne, Australia, to receive the international Golden Dozen award from ISWNE for the column that

was reprinted here exactly a year ago when the U.S. Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land. Australia is the friendliest place I've been and one day may return, but this was not the right time.

The judge's comments (p. 2A), however, are heartening, because this column, more than any other, defines my soon-to-be 45 years of "Impressions." It's a column which I feared publishing, and in fact, arranged for scheduled surgery the day after the paper came out so I would have an excuse not to take calls from angry readers.

I shouldn't have been so concerned. The vast majority of calls were the opposite: affirmation. Families in this community with brothers, sisters, sons and daughters who had been in the closet called to say thanks that I stuck my neck out and took the risk. The rest is now history. Public opinion has turned. The younger generation understands that sexual orientation is a given not a chosen. To them, it is a non-issue — as it should be.

The judge observed that the writer, "reflected on his own religious convictions while ultimately finding comfort in his belief that his community has the strength to be inclusive to all." For that, the honor is yours, dear readers. Thank you!  
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**Retirement:** The *Advocate News* will be hosting an open house and customer appreciation day Thursday afternoon at our office in Wilton to honor Barb Rochholz, who is retiring June 30 after more than 30 years. Her steady contributions as a writer who knows the people and history of her community forwards and backwards were recognized in a column last week by managing editor Derek Sawvell, who wrote, "Barb has had your first and last word. She's typed your birth announcements and obituaries ... and if you're a preacher, Eagle Scout, cancer survivor, Wilton Founders Day parade grand marshal ... the list goes on, chances are Barb has told your story. Whether writing about the highest of highs or the lowest of lows, Barb can do it in the most humble, yet pointed ways ... (she brought) a calming sense to the office and an unrivaled knowledge of these communities and the families within them."

To me, Barb represented the best of Iowa and of small-town newspapers. It's been a great ride and we wish Barb and her husband, Norm, nothing but the best!  
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**Youth Sports:** I was out and about on my bicycle Sunday afternoon and while at Sheridan Meadows Park in Eldridge took in some youth baseball. I love to watch young people compete for the love of the game. It takes your mind away from the more troubling things of life. In sports, unlike politics, for example, the boundaries are clearly defined. The ball is fair or foul. Three strikes and you're out. The team with the most runs wins.

What did surprise, though, was that teams were in town from Ankeny, Burlington, North Scott, Iowa City and Dubuque, Iowa, and Warren, Ill., for games that started at 5 p.m. on Sunday. The 10-year-old and under boys from Ankeny wouldn't get home until 10 o'clock at the earliest! And unlike the T-shirts and blue jeans that I played baseball in many years ago, the players were decked out in full gear with stirrups and fancy uniforms — the works!

Good for them, but it's quite a commitment for parents and athletes to spend a weekend 180 miles from home and miss church and family activities. Back in 1997, when our youngest daughter was on a traveling team and we discovered that

they played on Friday and Saturday to be seeded in a tournament that started at 8 a.m. on Sunday, I editorialized about "Sunday morning insanity!"

A lot of good that did. They're still at it and the tradition has grown. Parents of kids in youth sports today are faced with choices that my generation didn't have to worry about. The game is good, but I don't envy them. There's more to life than sports!

By coincidence, my phone rang when I was at the ballpark and it was a friend from Davenport whose 7-year-old grandson was in a tournament in Park View where the sportsmanship was so bad, he said, that law enforcement officers were called. I saw no poor sportsmanship at the games I was watching, but I've heard these horror stories.

It's a game, folks. Play to win, but if it is to mean anything, respect your opponents and teach citizenship and sportsmanship. In the end, those are the things that matter. End of sermon.  
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**Fireworks:** We received this timely news release as I was wrapping up the page. It's from Bettendorf plastic surgeon Dr. Benjamin Van Raalte, and he's warning about the dangers of fireworks:

"What millions of people consider to be harmless playthings can cause serious injuries that affect children for the rest of their lives.

"Amateur use of fireworks can lead to devastating burns and other injuries. Sparklers can heat up to 1,800 degrees (hot enough to melt gold) and can easily set fire to hair or clothing. Many people think of sparklers as a kind of toy for children. This is far from the truth."

Van Raalte said he once treated a patient who blew out his eye with a bottle rocket and that most of the time, alcohol has been involved when he has treated fireworks trauma.

He said adults who set off fireworks in front of children are sending the message that playing with fire is fun. "You're not only showing them that it's fun but you're also encouraging them to do it, too."

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 50 percent of the fireworks injuries are from burns. Body parts most affected are:

- 36 percent hands and fingers
- 19 percent eyes
- 19 percent hands, faces and ears
- 11 percent trunk and other
- 10 percent legs
- 5 percent arms

The doctor gave these tips to help families celebrate the Fourth of July safely:

- Read and follow warnings and labels on fireworks.
- Only sober adults wearing eye protection should light fireworks.
- No one should place any part of their body over fireworks when lighting a fuse.
- Other people should be kept at a safe distance from fireworks.
- Water (from a garden hose or a bucket) should be kept on hand in case of fire.
- Fireworks should be lit on a smooth, flat outdoor surface.
- Keep anything flammable away from the fireworks area.
- Point fireworks away from people and animals.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket.
- A "dud" firework should not be relit.

It should be doused and soaked with water, then thrown away. All fireworks should be discarded after they have finished burning.

Almost half the injuries from fireworks occur in children ages 14 and younger, he said.

My advice: Go to the legal fireworks shows like the one at Dixon Memorial Park on Sunday night, July 3, and don't dabble in the illegal stuff. You'll be safer and your neighbors will thank you for the peace and quiet!



Bob Tomlinson



Barb Rochholz

### Readers' Poll

Last week's question:

#### TERRORISTS

With 30 votes counted, here is how readers answered when asked if persons who are on the "No Fly" list because of suspected terrorism should be allowed to purchase assault weapons:

**YES: 90 Percent**  
**NO: 10 Percent**

#### New question: ABORTION RULING

Do you agree with the U.S. Supreme Court majority ruling this week which said the state of Texas laws that limited access to abortion were unconstitutional?

Vote online at

[www.northscottpress.com](http://www.northscottpress.com).

Results will be published next week. **Signed letters to the editor on any topic are welcomed.** Send to: North Scott Press, P.O. Box 200, Eldridge, IA 52748, or e-mail: [btubbs@northscottpress.com](mailto:btubbs@northscottpress.com).

