Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey
INTRODUCTION

My first letter to a newspaper editor was written in 1976. When I wrote that letter I had no intention nor idea that it would be the beginning of an odyssey that would go on for 33 years and continue to the present time (2009).

Spelling, language and reading were some of my favorite subjects in grade school. In about fifth grade our teacher had assigned a few of us to a debate team. Something I said made the class laugh and was the punch line which gave our team the winning votes. As a child, when I read our parent’s newspaper, the Dorothy Dix advice column fascinated me, that people had such problems and would write to a newspaper seeking help. I liked watching the Perry Mason movies, trying to figure out the solutions. These experiences were teaching me that words and communication were valuable tools in society.

After several of my children had left the nest I was finding more time to explore latent talents and began putting my thoughts and feelings into writing poetry and I began writing letters to editors. In those letters I tried to be a voice for the voiceless and offer solutions, rather than merely complaining, and was pleased when editors chose to print them. Many of my letters to editors did not get printed. In some cases I had no way of knowing if they did, if I did not know anyone in that newspaper’s area of readership who could tell me. I felt that whether or not one of my letters got printed, at least one person in the editorial office would read it and perhaps it would affect their opinion. Also, escalating societal problems frustrated me and it seemed to help ease my stress about them to take the thoughts from my mind and transfer them to paper, rather than doing nothing. Plus I always enjoyed writing letters to keep in touch with friends and relatives at a distance. The birth of my first granddaughter inspired my first book.

During those many years of writing, my files of letters to editors grew. A few times, a good friend made the suggestion (which I did not take seriously at the time) of putting all those letters into a book. After finishing my book, “Adam And Eve Were Pro-choice And They Raised Cain,” I began pondering my friend’s suggestion. Perhaps it was time to graduate from writing letters to editors to writing books. This edition had already been written. It had been
conceived long ago and was now sufficiently mature enough for birth. It just needed some assistance in the delivery. I hope that my writing helps to fulfill the following quote that, as a child, I learned from my father:

“He who knows and knows that he knows is wise. Follow him!
He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool. Shun him!
He who knows not and knows that he knows not, is simple. Teach him!
He who knows and knows not that he knows, is asleep. Wake him!”

(NOTICE: In many of my letters I have mentioned the names of well publicized and well known public figures such as presidents, politicians, sports stars, movie stars, etc. However, on the occasions that a less well known, or more local person had been mentioned, I withheld their name and have inserted “name withheld” in its place in order to protect their privacy.)
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

Re the Oliphant cartoon about the Hearst trial which depicted a psychiatrist as a senile gent roller skating into the courtroom wearing a child’s cap and carrying a ruse between his teeth:

I feel that cartoonists have as great or greater responsibility than others who present their version of the news via the printed or spoken word. Cartoons can be a wonderful teaching aid. Some misinform. Some are merely re-statement. Some raise questions so we can seek answers. Some show a possible solution.

One visual impression in the mind is mom powerful usually than reading or hearing words. Humor can be a great help in getting through vying situations. Psychiatrists can be of great help to those who suffer needlessly and can help people to reach their potential.

Them am differences in humor. Positive humor is laughing at your mistakes or faults and changing for the better; or laughing with someone to share happy moments. Negative humor is laughing at someone or something which is cruel and often masks a lack of knowledge about the subject.

We are finding out the tremendous and mostly mused power of the mind and I feel the cartoon did an injustice to this potential.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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REJECTED KIDS

About the saddest, most thought provoking picture I’ve seen lately is of West High students huddling together on a grate that, along with warmth, spews stale air and chlorine fumes.

It appears that they are suspended in a no-man’s land, attached by forces beyond their control, but rejected by -- and also rejecting - that force. They are floating, add at the mercy of any stronger or more attractive force that beckons. Hopefully, same, will find a better way. Some will fall into the defiant, destructive acts against the society that spawned them.

While everyone is shaking their heads at the senseless destruction by arson, we might ask ourselves, how we contributed to it. Do we reach out with our love to all children, without prejudice and expectations? Can we change to a more meaningful life so those who are floating will want (not be forced) to follow?

It is sad that any human has so much anger and hostility that he can no longer stand being left out of the beauty and belonging that so many take for granted, and tries to destroy it.

Some may try to solve the problem by geographic escape or by demanding stricter laws while complaining about the higher taxes to enforce them.
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and to rebuild the destruction.

It is best to prevent, and difficult to pierce the protective veneer that rebels build up over a lifetime of rejection; but what is the alternative?

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
April 5, 1990

Dear Editor:

It’s difficult for me to understand how (name withheld) could misconstrue such a peaceful, non-violent act as placing a colored bow on one’s own property as trying to inhibit other’s freedoms. But I thank her for using her freedom of expression because it prompted me to respond. Only by keeping the dialogue going on controversial issues can there be hopes of resolving them.

There have been colored bows displayed to proclaim desire for hostages’ freedom. Currently, yellow bows are being displayed for Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD). These examples have been to express love of life and freedom to live, not to inhibit life and freedom. We have all the freedom to do our best (or worst) within the confines of larger prisons such as poverty, country, class, race, etc. With or without laws, people will go on having abortions or not having them. The choice of reproducing or not reproducing can be made in a much more non-violent manner than abortion, BEFORE the sex act takes place (except in the relatively low proportions of conceptions brought about by rape or incest). In those cases, the man causing the conception was using his freedom to act in an irresponsible manner. Freedom is relative.

For those who love and affirm life, it extends far beyond reproduction, to all that promotes life such as that which is tiny and vulnerable and/or that which has no voice such as plants, growing things, earth’s soil and waters, fetuses, small children and animals. Cruelty and violence against any or all of these must be spoken against by those who have a voice, or it comes back in unspeakable ways which must then be dealt with, such as pollution, chemical poisoning, landfill problems, etc.

It seems that the more enlightened should have the most understanding, the most forgiveness, the most compassion for the less enlightened. That does not mean complacency and condoning acts they find abhorrent to life, but to keep finding ways to teach through love, good example and non-violence. Ribbons or bows on property, slogans on T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc., are ways of expressing the courage of one’s convictions.

Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Jan. 24, 1991

Dear Editor:
January 17, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. was grayed by the announcement of the birth of war in the Persian Gulf. These events, along with the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision to legalize abortion (Jan. 22) seems to me to be a significantly entwined triad.

I wish these words from King’s famous “I Have A Dream” speech would be emphasized more, “where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but the contents of their character.” Births, whether of a great man, a war, or a fetus, are not really beginnings, but roadmarks on a map of who and what has gone before. Roads leading to those landmarks were processed with character – or lack of it.

The picture of innocent war victims, trapped and slaughtered in the womb of a war not of their making, could be perceived as a gigantic (for those who can’t recognize it in the smaller picture of individual lives) of innocent abortion victims trapped in human wombs.

My display of a red pro-life ribbon does not mean I’m for over-population, irresponsible breeding, or poverty, any more than my display of a yellow ribbon means that I’m for war. It means that I believe in the sanctity of life in all its forms, as a God-given gift which deserves respect in all stages. The building of character might promote that belief better than killing does. Perhaps one more bow, a rainbow colored ribbon with black and white on either edge could also be displayed, and hopefully the only one needed. Someday!

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
May 30, 1991

Dear Editor:

I commend the Riverdale area churches and their people who, without involving the school district, planned an Ecumenical Baccalaureate service.

Perhaps Anne Gaylor, in trying to eliminate God from all public places, has unknowingly performed a service if families, who in some cases gave up their God-given right and responsibility as parents to the public school system and government programs, will reclaim that right and responsibility. After all, how can “the government” teach your child matters of faith, morals and discipline as you would like it to be? We still have the freedom to do that in our own homes and churches. We still have the freedom to display nativity scenes, etc. in our own yards.

Maybe this Ecumenical Baccalaureate service in the little village of Muscoda will set a shining example for the whole country.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Oct. 17, 1991
Dear Editor:

I have been saddened, sickened and baffled by the Senate hearings regarding Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill.

Whoever (either alone or collectively) is or may be behind the illegal leaking of information started a process, which pitted the “battle of the sexes” against the “battle of the races” at a time when both women and Blacks have made significant gains toward equality.

The only good I can see coming from this is that millions of American males have most likely had their conscious awareness raised regarding what constitutes sexual harassment, at a considerable cost: (1) Both Thomas’s and Hill’s credibility and character have been sullied and their families hurt; (2) the highest court in the nation was made to look like a pornographic zoo, which legally pumped pornographic material into every home that was tuned in; material which would have been illegal to peddle in some other ways. A pornographic movie was even advertised in the process; and (3) our highest court took part in what looked like an attempted lynching of our democratic process. “All have sinned,” and what person will ever want to run for a high office at the cost of self destruction of him or herself and their families, except those corrupt, immoral individuals who willingly lie and cheat, in order, perhaps, to do a takeover from the inside out?

Two of the graphic descriptions with which Hill made allegations against Thomas were found to have very similar wordage in (1) a court transcript involving sexual harassment, and (2) in the story, “The Exorcist!” A hearing based on sexual harassment of a female became a mirror image reflection of a sexual harassment of a male, in addition to a gang rape of his character. Special interest groups greedily joined a flood whose destructive power seemed to no saving Noah’s Ark.

Were Hill and Thomas (both Blacks, neither of whom could come out a real winner) perhaps used as pawns in an insidious Chess game in which the only apparent winners were Evil and the Women’s Equality Movement? If that is so, then “To the victors would go the spoils: Blacks and decency.”

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Nov. 14, 1991

Dear Editor:

That Magic Johnson has AIDS virus is the latest news shocker. He’s rather between a rock and hard place, and could just slide downhill but will use his experience to teach “safe sex”. What else? His basketball career ended and what big soft drink, tennis shoe or other money-maker will want to pay the biggest bucks for mother earth/apple pie appeal, to the shiniest sports star whose light has darkened?
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Sex, crime and violence, the money catalysts that have made our societies ethic for years may now, by Magic, have been put in reverse as society gets more sick and tired from what was slick and tried.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Weight Watchers, etc. are some of the sad/good examples that turning a fall into a dance is not new. How much more glorious the dance could be if people weren’t hurt in the falling. Anyone can fall, get up and pivot, but especially in public life, how does one know if a Duke or a Swaggert or Marion Barry is for real, or merely crying “shepherd?” It’s easier to recognize and rely on the strong who aren’t wearing a crutch.

Hopefully, Johnson’s “Magic” will rise again to shine light on a very dark area. His news shocker, so recently following those of Dahmer, Reuben, birth control and abortion fights, sexual harassment, etc. may already be the magic news ending the aforementioned if it has enlightened parents to accept the life/death struggle responsibility (rather then leaving it to governments and popular heroes) of teaching their offspring, from the cradle, the difference between right and wrong, by first being their No. 1 magic role model.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Nov. 12, 1992

Dear Editor:

The story of the Muscoda Incinerator boondoggle preceded by one day the story of the proposed selling of 165 acres of Richland to Waste Management, Inc., that would bring us $165,000 plus $55,000 annual royalties.

The first story should have raised a caution flag in our minds about the second story, since the performance promises of the incinerator went up in smoke to the tune of a $17.8 million dollar debt for the three involved counties.

Though difficult to figure out a way to carry it out, it seems the only fair way to pay for waste disposal is to charge each individual or business for the amount of waste they produce. That way, the ecologically aware people who do as little as possible to pollute and who recycle, would not have to pay equally as much as the ecologically irresponsible ones. Poor people are not the major causers of overloaded landfill sites. They have not had the luxury to buy and dispose of so much! But they will be the least able to buy medical solutions to heal problems caused by ecological contamination. Major polluters should not be allowed to continue to create unmanageable amounts of waste and expect to buy their waste into someone else’s back yards. We were put here to be stewards.

Societies polluted money changers, for some time have been eyeballing virgin lands away from the metropolitan areas. If our land is so valuable, we should think twice before prostituting it
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into worthlessness. I suggest that before we lift the lid on this latest Pandora’s Box that could turn our beautiful Rich Land into a toxic wasteland, we should examine the contents with X-ray vision and ask: “What will prevent Waste Management Inc. from selling out to another corporation who could change the rules?” “Who would be the watchdog to see that toxic and/or radioactive waste is not shipped in from Kenosha, Chicago, Milwaukee, Genoa, St. Paul and Minneapolis, etc.?” “What would happen to neighboring land values around the site?”

Before losing control of this land and causing any more repetitive motion stress syndromes to our tax burden, I urge you to get informed, involved and make your opinions known.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
Saturday, February 13, 1993

REFERENDUM POLL RESULTS

In a Feb. 6 Wisconsin State Journal Readers Poll, we asked if the city of Madison should hold a referendum on whether handguns should be banned. The tally as of noon Friday was 98 opposed, 91 in favor. Here are a sample of the comments our readers made.

YES: “We’re a democracy and the people’s voice should count. To avoid needless deaths, I approve the banning of handguns unless a way can be found to keep them from being used as toys by youths and children. Guns, like sex, are too powerful for the immature and irresponsible. The current mind-set for both is about as safe as putting a condom over the barrel of gun before aiming it and pulling the trigger.” – Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Mar. 18, 1993

Dear Erik:

My response to (name withheld) . . . You said you weren’t looking for pity. I hope your letter was a search for the truth of how the weight of your choices affected the balance of your circumstances.

You didn’t state a reason for the missed GED classes. I assume it was your choice not to attend. The only acceptable reason I can see for not attending would have been illness. Apparently someone cared enough to be there for you, and chose to discipline themselves to teach the classes you rejected. At that time you may not have perceived the opportunity to expand your education as valuable enough to put forth any dedicated and continuous efforts towards it.

Without taking control of your life and making the best of the opportunities at hand, whatever they be, you may perpetually circulate through the prison system revolving doors, like thousands of other career inmates in our nation’s prisons.

It has become a popular mindset to blame everyone but
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the self for circumstances that one makes, at least a partial choice to enter into. We each choose to bite whichever bait traps us, or challenges and lures us to a better direction. It’s as if society has a robotic phyxation* that when the robot allows something to go wrong, someone else is expected to take responsibility to phyx it! (*Phyxation is a self-coined word meaning a stagnant phenomena of nature, with no psyche (soul, mind or spirit) to nurture it to maturity.)

Even Rodney King (though I believe he should not have been beaten for it) made the initial choice to break parole, become inebriated and drive drunk! As far as I can tell, he has never expressed any remorse for his part in the actions that led to the infamous videotaped beating - that in time led to the similar beating of an innocent Reginald Denny; the killing of approximately 58 people; injury of over 2,00 and up to $1 billion dollars in riot destruction. Reginald Denny, the dead and injured, had no choice. They were merely in the wrong place and the wrong time.

You (name withheld) are far luckier than the millions of innocent fetus-messengers, who through no choice of theirs, were conceived, trapped, tried, convicted and executed in prison-wombs for message-choices begotten by others! But you are no longer a choiceless child. You must face mature responsibility for your actions and your life. Rather than merely being “warehoused” and serving time, I hope you will utilize the extra 30 days to let time serve you the beginnings of a more rewarding means of survival.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
May 20, 1993

Dear Erik:

Near the closing of Tuesday night’s City Council meeting (5/18/93), Alderman (name withheld) made a statement to the effect that the City Council was supposed to represent the wishes of the citizens and he didn’t think that was always happening.

The initial concern of many citizens about the city wanting to sell our landfill site last year, to Waste Management, Inc. (so they could haul in 500 tons or more of garbage daily from elsewhere), was followed quickly by the organization of RACER or Richland Area Citizens for Environmental Responsibility. RACERS’ concerns were many, including pollution, noise, aesthetics, vermin, etc. A major concern was Waste Management itself.

When RACER and other citizens let their aldermen and Mayor know how they felt about the proposed sale of our landfill site, the city appointed in Dec. ’92, a seven-member ad hoc committee to work with the Public Works Committee on the matter.

This citizens committee has done much research, attended meetings and made recommendations which included fair ways to have waste collection user fees
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fit the amount of garbage generated, rather than the more unfair flat rate fee for everyone; and also grand scale education.

Appointing the ad hoc committee appears to have been a smoke screen to blind and quiet the upset citizens. In light of the public apprehension (apparent by the many RACERS present at the meeting and voicing opinions), it would seem the council might have at least considered a lesser than five-year contract with WMI; or added the amendment to the proposal suggested by competitor, Town and Country.

The profound truth of (name withheld) closing statement was too late and seems to have escaped some of the “elected.” Apparently, home folks’ desires weren’t as powerful as Waste Management’s big-city seduction. They got their foot in the door and now council voted (4-3) to co-habit with them for another five years! Perhaps we need a Ross Perot to remind leaders that our government is supposed to be “Of, By and For the People.” So now, help us, God!

Sincerely, RACER Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
July 15, 1993

Dear Editor:

Appreciate the RACERS, ad hoc citizens’ committee and other citizens concerned about environmental responsibility for seeking so much information on the problem; who have spent a great amount of time, effort and their own money to extract and make available much valuable information.

Information alone, at rest, however does nobody any good. The more there is gives greater opportunity for choice. And mere opportunity does not guarantee a best choice. Often best choice comes through trial and error and process of elimination.’’

Being mayor and aldermen are oftentimes consuming, thankless jobs. They chose to run and I’m sure they attempt to make the best decisions. No human can be all things to all people. Those who try are called dictators! The people’s choice at election time is the basis of democracy.

People in public office are often criticized for their choice of decisions. So are letter writers and others who make their opinions known. In a way, we elect ourselves to that. Thank God for freedom of expression.

If decisions are made that do not seem to be in the best interests of the citizens, we have to live with it for awhile until better knowledge can be assimilated and implemented. The human body is a wonderful school and example of that process. If we ingest too much, or the wrong things; take in bad food, bad water, or infectious toxins through a bite or scratch, etc., the body will protest and be sick for awhile until the incompatible material is eliminated. Health doesn’t come by taking in more of what made the body sick. A drunk may attempt “hair of
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the dog” remedies to ease suffering, but masking or anesthetizing does not eliminate the problem.

The current massive floods and lack of drinking water highlights dramatically the value of clean water, and life itself. People work together tirelessly to sandbag and keep out the polluted water. Often such efforts fail. The ones unflooded are not digging canals to let floods in their areas. Some acted on past knowledge. Soldiers Grove moved to higher ground. Richland Center built a dike.

We must assimilate all our knowledge and choices to remain healthy, not leaving the work to a few or wait till the flood!

If anyone would like more information on environmental issues and our landfill concerns, and how to maintain a healthy area, the next RACER meeting is at 6:45 p.m. July at Brewer Library.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Oct. 6, 1994

Dear Editor:

Many people perhaps grew up not knowing that the name “Halloween” came from “Hallowed Eve” or All Souls Day, which precedes All Saints Day, or “Allhallows.” As with much of society, the spiritual connotation of Halloween had been removed. The merely secular celebration deteriorated into evils which poisoned some children or harmed them by other evil tricks. I imagine the Annie Laurie Gaylor types have been pleased with the removal of anything Godly from this day.

Parents have become far more protective of their children on Halloween in recent years. In order for Christians to reverse the trend even more and give evidence that they have not removed God from their lives I suggest decorating pumpkins by carving crosses, stars, etc. on them, rather than evil faces. Also, parent and child together could research biblical characters or more recent role models and costume the child as someone they’d like to emulate.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Saturday, October 15, 1994

HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY HAS LOST ITS ORIGINAL MEANING.

Many people perhaps grew up not knowing that the name “Halloween” came from “Hallowed Eve” or All Souls Day, which precedes All Saints Day, or “Allhallows.”

As elsewhere in society, the spiritual connotation of Halloween has been removed.

The merely secular celebration deteriorated into evils that poisoned some children or harmed them through other evil tricks.
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Parents have become far more protective of their children on Halloween in recent years.

For Christians to reverse the trend even more and give evidence that they have not removed God from their lives, I suggest decorating pumpkins by carving on them crosses, stars, angels, etc., rather than evil faces.

Also, parents and child together could research biblical characters or more recent role models. Parents could costume their children as people the youngsters would like to emulate.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
August 29, 1995

OPENING UP ‘CLOSETS’ CAN STIR UP DUSTBALLS

I disagree with (name withheld) in his letter of Aug. 1 that consensual sex in a public park is “victimless.” The victims are decency and loss of innocence, prematurely, of children too young for such things who might stumble across people having sex. Other victims are families who now must worry that picnic in the park might expose their children to people having sex, used condoms, etc.

When sex still had more to do with love than lust, entertainment and spectator sport, sexual intimacy was generally confined to the privacy of one’s home or a very secluded spot. When adultery is no longer shameful; when sex with anyone, anytime, any place becomes one’s strange god, it is idolatry. Everything which has been let out of the closet, including moths,
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mildew and mice, does not necessarily deserve to be put on a pedestal and adored.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
October 21, 1995

ACCEPT MARCH’S MESSAGE BUT BEWARE OF MESSENGER

The Million Man March has sparked about as much discussion as the Simpson verdict, with questions such as, “What was accomplished?” and “What of Farrakhan?”

It was great to see so many black males come together to hear about (and hopefully carry out) atonement for mistakes. They seemed peaceful, reflective and spiritual. The message to be better fathers and husbands and to respect women, etc., was similar to the message given by the Pope for all races, earlier this month.

As for Farrakhan, like all of us there is both good and bad. . . I didn’t quite trust the man himself, though he did an excellent job of trying to assuage the fears of those who do not trust him completely, knowing his past comments about racial segregation and separatism, Jews, etc. In the past he has urged blacks to remain black. That reminds me of Adolph Hitler, who also hated Jews and wanted to make a pure Aryan race.’

. . . Farrakhan told the men at the march, “You don’t need to bash white people” while much of his speech was bashing white people. I hope the men in attendance were above some of those remarks.

Like Jim Jones and David Koresh, Farrakhan was able to attract and fill a need for many who felt out of touch and out of the mainstream, a need that was not being filled by anyone else. I hope we can all take from his message that which was true and good, but don’t get captured by the messenger, as were some folks at Jonestown and Waco.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Oct. 12, 1995

Dear Editor:

Two hurricanes hit our land Oct. 3 and 4; the O. J. Simpson verdict and Hurricane Opal. All of the cheering when the verdict was announced reminded me of another group of cheering people. They were the cadets at the Citadel’s all male academy when Shannon Faulkner the first female cadet withdrew. Some people were happy in both cases, but was it for the right reasons?

Perhaps, only God and O. J. Simpson himself will ever know for sure whether he was “not guilty”. I must applaud the restraint of those who disagreed with the verdict for not going out burning cities, rioting, looting and killing people.

Was the verdict and cheering payback for Rodney King? If that wasn’t enough, what
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about the vicious head-bricking of Reginald Denny and the damages left by the riots and burning of Los Angeles? In the 1992 riots plus the Watts riots of 1965, the costs amounted to $740 million, plus the loss of over 84 lives. Maybe the ugly neck slashing and near decapitation of the victims, Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman, is some kind of divine payback for all the neck injuries and deaths by lynching of so many blacks in another time and place by other people.

If we continue in the Old Testament law of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” we all will be walking around blind and toothless. When will we mature to the New Testament law of “turning the other cheek” and forgiveness? “Vengeance is mine, saieth the Lord.”

It is ironic that the trial that made Nicole Brown the most famous victim of domestic violence ended in early October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Along with the almost forgotten victim, Ron Goldman, we have multi-millions of other forgotten domestic violence victims, aborted fetuses. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The National Cancer Institute has found there is a 50 per cent higher risk of breast cancer in women who abort. In families with breast cancer history, women who aborted at age 20 or younger all contracted breast cancer after the abortion. The racial strife which has verbally escalated since the verdict seems to be doing nothing except looking back continuously at the dark shadows of our past. Maybe we could regain our vision and see a clear path in front of us if we each removed the beam from our own eye before trying to remove the speck from our brother’s eye. Hurricane Opal has left its damage. Those victims are trying to assess the damage and move ahead. We should try to do the same. Opal is the birthstone for October and part of the Opal description is: “capable of refracting light and then reflecting it in a play of colors”. We might go a long way toward ending racism and reflecting light on our future by learning and living the Ten Commandments and rebuilding families which are the foundation of any social structure.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Feb. 15, 1996

Dear Editor:

Soon, Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address will be repeated around the country to remember the end of the Civil War and the hopes for a new beginning, just as Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech is resurrected each year. We have many holidays on which to remember people and events associated with such days, but there is no day on which to commemorate the unjust pain suffered by Native Americans in our early history; nor a public way to commemorate their courage during those times to help keep their hopes and dreams alive.
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We are no longer a new nation and should be mature enough to acknowledge and be accountable for some of our country’s adolescent mistakes, so as not to proliferate them any longer. The human race itself is very old and should show signs of maturity. But, in many ways, we still act as infants. It is many years after Independence Day, the Civil War, the Watt’s riots, etc. – and 105 years after the last gallant effort by Native Americans to retain their rights at the Battle of Wounded Knee, December 29, 1890. Still, our nation is in turmoil with racism, poverty, crime, budget battles and our boys being sent to Bosnia. Many of the happenings at the time of the Indian wars, with the changing of a few words, could fit into today’s news: “Indians were supplied with arms and ammunition for hunting purposes only. Owners of arms bartered weapons for robes, hides and furs; our country resounded with scandals and corruptions.” And the cause of Custer’s demise is that he surmised more than he knew!

The Sioux Indians, especially, are a high order of people. Many of their moral and spiritual values correspond to Christian beliefs and actions, although they use different words and rituals to identify and communicate them. I think Native Americans deserve a special holiday of their own. I also feel that we should place the following great speech in the halls of fame, alongside Lincoln’s and King’s speeches. It was given by Native American Chief Spotted Tail (and chronicled in the book, “The Wounded Knee Massacre – From Viewpoint of the Sioux” by James McGregor):

“Alas! There is a time appointed to all things. Think for a moment how many multitudes of the animal tribes we, ourselves, have destroyed. Look upon the snow that appears today – tomorrow it is water! Listen to the dirge of dry leaves, that were green and vigorous but a few months before! We are part of that life and it seems that our time has come.

“Yet note the decay of one nation invigorates another. This strange white man – consider him, his gifts are manifold. His tireless brain, his busy hands do wonders for his race. Yet, he is so great and flourishing: There must be some virtue and truth in his philosophy. I wish to say to you, my friends: be not moved alone by heated arguments and revenge. These are for the young. We are young no longer. Let us give council as old men.”

If all elected officials and all individuals who walk this journey on Mother Earth would learn from the past, and from the goodness of each other, we might mature enough to give council as old and wise men.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
June 20, 1996

Dear Editor:

Journalists have been asking why more people aren’t appalled by, and protesting against, the torching of
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

Black churches. I, for one, am appalled and have been for some time, as I wonder why all churches are not praying about, and protesting against it. In addition, I have become appalled by and have spoken against much that society now condones and approves, such as abortion; euthanasia; sodomy; child, animal and environmental abuse; handing over parental responsibility to government; wasted tax money on our out of whack prison system and so on. But a voice crying in the desert may have had as much impact as anything I’ve said.

Torching of church buildings is merely another sign of the times, along with the attempted elimination of spiritual values. A major hurdle was won when Roe versus Wade made abortion legal, in the ongoing desensitization of people to any moral outrage about anything. Having legally made “Thou Shall Not Kill” null and void, non-believers began to abort and twist Biblical teachings (such as love and compassion) to further their aim by quoting bits and pieces out of context, such as “Love your neighbor” and “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone” without telling the rest of the story, “Go and sin no more!” or teaching the commandments.

Much repetition of words such as “choice” and “separation of church and state” became hypnotic drum beats luring followers who do not even question where they are going, but may one day wake up to the loss of most of the freedoms we now enjoy.

The church (the people, not the buildings) will go on in spite of torched structures. Arsonists torching buildings, however, is only one way attempts are made to eliminate our freedoms. Complacency is a deeper darkness that aids the attacks on our freedoms. Christian presidential hopeful Alan Keyes was hauled from a debate in handcuffs and few people protested. Trinity Evangelical Church in Madison had a service interrupted and nearly aborted by an unruly mob of homosexuals who surrounded the church and proceeded to fill the inside specifically for that purpose. Outside, and during the talks, they shouted obscenities and screamed, including such remarks as “Crush the Christians,” hammered steel garbage can lids; blew whistles; threw rocks at church windows; urinated on the church’s bathroom floor, etc., none of which was reported in the media. If the speakers had been abortionists and the church an abortion clinic it would have been headline news!

When a letter of mine appeared in the Wisconsin State Journal, 3/9/96, regarding Christians not hating homosexuals, but rather the sin of sodomy, I received a crank phone call in the middle of the night – just as Black churches have been torched in the dark of night. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin was quoted (WSJ, 6/18/93) saying, “This is the way of Nazis and Fascists: Strike under cover of darkness . . . The attacks on homes and private property, and trespassing on the grounds of clinics violates
the law. . . The illegal and unlawful attacks on clinics, the homes of physicians and their staff will not be tolerated.” Elected officials hurried to offer bills for the protection of women seeking abortions against “violent interference with their rights.” But they and the media become strangely blind, deaf and mute when violence is directed against Christians and churches. If these happenings do not sound an alarm to the American people, perhaps we are all blind, deaf and mute.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller
Richland Center

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Legalized abortion plants seeds of death

“The Band Played On” at the prom in Freehold, NJ, while 18 year-old prom-goer Melissa Drexler took a time out in the ladies room for a grisly scene: the birth, death and disposal in a trash can of her baby, before returning to request a song and dance with her date.

Each day seems to bring an uglier example of disrespect for life. The emotionally charged Timothy McVeigh trial re-enacted the sorrow and horror of killing, especially of the innocent. In debating the punishment for killers, Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating stated, “How many babies do we have to see killed before it (the death penalty) is justified?” I don’t think more killing stops killing.

More than 40 million innocent lives that never had a chance to reach their potential have already been terminated without a judge or jury – for them or the perpetrators of their deaths, and without any tearful courtroom scenes. Legalized abortion planted and cultivated spiritually altered seeds of death that sprung up quickly on the rocky ground of humanism.

Alice Mueller
Richland Center

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Sept. 11, 1997

Dear Editor:

Lately, I have been enjoying a lovely billboard I see on entering Richland Center from Hwy. 14 East, just past Hardee’s to the left. It is lovely ins pastoral scene as well as its message, “God says He loves us.”

With all of the well-masqueraded deceit which passes for truth, along with the tragedy and sorrow that abounds, this sign’s simple beauty and truth elevates my spirit. What a nice welcome and remembrance it is for travelers through, or visitors to, Richland Center. It brought to my mind some words from “Desiderata”: “With all of its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.”

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

October 25, 1997

PROMISE KEEPERS COVERAGE INADEQUATE

"By their fruits you will know them" It says in Matthew 7:20. I was left feeling malnourished by the skimpy harvest of State Journal coverage on the Oct. 4 Promise Keepers rally in Washington, as compared to the abundance of your produce for the Million Man March two years ago.

For the Million Man March event, you produced a large color picture with an article plus three other articles that included Louis Farrakhan’s picture and several more follow-up articles. For the Promise Keepers event, you ran a black-and-white shot of the crowd, about two-thirds the size of the aforementioned picture, along with an equally brief article. Interestingly, at the top center of your front page was a headline, “3,000 rally for pot,” accompanied by a small color picture.

The Million Man March was for solidarity for one race. One goal and purpose of the Promise Keepers multi-racial event was to wipe out racism! On TV I saw Promise Keeper speakers who were of different skin colors and ethnic backgrounds, including a Native American in full feather dress. What a wonderful image! As a picture is worth a thousand words, I feel that a large color picture of that scene might well have produced good fruit, a thousand fold.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
Sept. 3, 1998

ANOTHER RESPONSE TO (NAME WITHHELD) LETTER

Aug. 27, 1998
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

In your Aug. 13 issue (name withheld) wrote of the nightmarishness of theocracies and state-sponsored religions, and that America was founded by some who had fled religious persecution. Perhaps the nightmare is, that in spite of best intentions, human nature tends to stay in a rut, as was illustrated in the book, “Animal Farm.”

Our early government didn’t wait till today, but practiced religious persecution on Native Americans. Governments around the world and for centuries have misused their power and misused religion to take over territories not theirs.

Theocracies (government rule, claimed to be by divine authority) should not be confused with theocracy (the mystic union of the soul with God). Theocracy can not be forced and is never the problem, but rather a government’s misuse of it (perhaps theocracy). Force is a very bad teacher. Power has a way of corrupting and throwing “best intentions” by the wayside. The word (the Bible) foresaw all this and gave instructions on how to avoid it, such as, “Let not many become teachers, knowing you will receive a greater...
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

judgment,” and so on. A system of truth has a pattern that works with its Creator, when followed, proving itself in its blossoming. When the pattern is not followed it also proves itself by showing the imperfect results (as was recently shown by our president who followed his own pattern).

The word also has a cure to end the evil of the negative results. It’s called love and forgiveness (not to be confused with condoning). It may not be easy but perhaps learning by doing the opposite of bad results was taught by Kahlil Gibran when he said, “I have learned silence from the talkative, kindness from the unkind and tolerance from the intolerant. I should not be ungrateful to those teachers.”

Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
Oct. 22, 1998

Dear Editor:

Every crime is a hate crime! The laws already on the books should be enforced. We do not need any more laws cluttering up the legal system to define what “IS” is, however tragic was the death of 21 year old U of Wyoming freshman Matthew Shephard.

It IS tragic that violence against fellow humans IS so common, whether it’s the shooting of the Ruby Ridge mother holding her infant, the burning alive of Waco Compound residents or the killing of infants by mothers who dump the bodies in the trash. The latter killings, if done minutes earlier in the womb IS legal. How tragic that life IS now so worthless, if such life interferes with our time, pursuit of pleasure or our opinion, or is not perfect in our eyes. Two wrongs, or a hundred wrongs such as wars, death penalties and abortions, have not made things right: “Vengeance is mine,” says the Lord. Whether or not we approve of another’s choices and the results of how they have been oriented, or their birth defects and disabilities we do not have the moral right to take another life.

Legalized abortion began declaring life’s worthlessness some 25 years ago. It nullified the commandment, “You shall not kill.” Morally, that commandment still stands, but the legal nullifying effects have snowballed and are magnified almost daily before our eyes. If Matthew Shephard had to be the shepherd/martyr to lead us to this picture, at least HE had the gift of life for 21 years. The fractured skull that led to his death is merely a magnified view of the punctured skulls of all partial birth abortion victims. Signs which our blind eyes can’t see will continually be magnified for us until we get the picture.

Killing of innocent lives IS the most vile hate crime! To re-establish the value of all life, there IS only one hate-crime law necessary: “KILL THE ABORTION WITCH.”

Sincerely,
Alice Mueller
WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
November 24, 1998
SEPIAN’S MURDER PRECEDED TRAGEDY OF ABORTION

The death by sniper bullet of abortionist Dr. Barnett Slepian of Wyoming and the recent death of Matthew Shepherd of Wyoming are just two more tragic examples of disobedience to the commandment, "You shall not kill." It is tragic that such disobedience has become so common, whether it is the murder of someone during robbery; one caught in adultery with one’s mate; the Ruby Ridge mother holding her baby; the fiery deaths of the Waco compound residents or those in the Oklahoma bombing; or infants killed by their mothers who then throw the children’s bodies in the trash.

Such deaths as the latter, if done moments earlier in the womb, are legal. Yet no one has the moral right to take another life, whether or not we approve of others’ choices, or the results of how they have been oriented, or their birth defects or disabilities.

Two wrongs, or a hundred thousand wrongs, such as wars, death penalties and abortions have not made things right. Legalized abortion began declaring life’s worthlessness some 25 years ago, by legally nullifying the commandment, “You shall not kill.” Morally, that commandment still stands but the legal nullifying effects have snowballed and are magnified before our eyes almost daily.

Shepherd at least had the gift of life for 21 years. Slepian had the gift of life for 51 years. Abortionist Dr. Elizabeth Karlin had the gift of life for 54 years before divine intervention ended her life with a cancerous brain tumor. "Vengeance is mine," says the Lord, “I will repay.”

To re-establish the value of all life there is one hate-crime law which should be passed, and that is to end legal abortion.

Alice Mueller
Richland Center

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
April 15, 2000
THE BIBLE TEACHES LOVE BUT NOT TOLERANCE OF SIN

Please eliminate William Wineke’s column and bring back Laura Schlessinger.

Methinks Wineke’s judgmental criticism of Pat Robertson should send himself scurrying to remove the beam from his own eye.

We’re supposed to love everyone and pray for those who do evil, but no place does scripture teach lukewarmness and tolerance of sin. “I would that you were cold or hot, but because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth” (Revelations 3:15-16). Jesus taught forgiveness combined with “go and sin nor more. . .”
DEATH SENTENCES DO NOT CORRECT SOCIETY’S ERRORS

Editor,

With the execution of the “kamikaze” Timothy McVeigh, the dead body count from the Oklahoma bombing is now 169.

He took justice, as he saw it (or vengeance against the government, as the case may be) into his own hands. But “Vengeance is mine, says the Lord. I will repay.”

Two or ten, a thousand or a million wrongs will not make a right. But the kamikaze mindset of much of our society, which sees death as a way to solve the problems of life, seems to think so.

God’s command “You shall not kill,” along with His advice and gift of free will, “I have set before you life and death – therefore choose life,” have gone greatly unheeded in various ways and choices, including the kamikaze or genocide of abortion and homosexuality.

“Out of sight, out of mind” has not corrected the errors that society created (the sins of the fathers) by death sentences (in prison or the womb) or warehousing them inside the walls of prisons and mental institutions.

Enough of those who see the killing of McVeigh as “justice” have not yet cried out against a society that worships sex as God, resulting in millions of deaths by AIDS; and the “collateral damage” of aborted babies, to overturn this death penalty for hate crimes against these unborn innocents.

Why is anyone surprised when God keeps his word by revealing his wrath from heaven against those who hold back the truth of God – in devastating floods, tornados, and fires; oil and chemical spills; car, plane and train crashes and so forth?

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

they did not create themselves. And I doubt that the Creator cares much what name is used, whether God, Allah, El Shaddai, Yaweh, El Elohe, etc., as long as it isn’t used in vain. When Moses asked the Creator, “Who are you?” the answer was, “I AM WHO AM.” Faith, of course, cannot be proven, because it “is the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that are not seen.” By faith we understand that the world was fashioned by the word of God and thus things visible were made out of things invisible. Faith has been called the power of positive thinking. Everything that was ever built, painted, sculpted, written, etc. began as a seed in someone’s mind. How that seed bears fruit depends on a number of variables, just as with a seed planted in the soil.

There are also negative thinkers who tend to deride what they do not understand. Some of the bad fruit born by their negative thought-seeds have been tragedy.

The Creator, being Spirit, can’t be seen, but somewhat like electricity which also can’t be seen, is power and can do things. By the Creator’s own revelation, the Bible is the inspired word of God, who said, “My word is truth.” This truth consists of evidence, phenomenon and knowledge that only a divine intelligence could create. It also consists of prophecies, one of which was the coming of “God in the flesh,” Jesus, who was seen performing miracles, etc. Many other prophecies have been fulfilled, many in our own generation, which authenticates the truth of the Scriptures. Also, advances in scientific knowledge keep proving the accuracy of the Bible and complex design that God used to create the universe. Perhaps the most amazing proof of God’s existence has come about by the revealing of hidden codes and mathematical patterns found in the text of the Bible. This was only accomplished with the aid of a computer, after it was invented. Such a phenomenon, created so long ago to be discovered now could not have been created by human intelligence. Those who do not believe by faith, must certainly now believe what computer science has shown.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
Oct. 24, 2002

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FATHERS GONE?
Oct. 15, Richland Center, WI

Editor:

“Where have all the fathers gone?” is the theme I’ve tried to promote for many years. Political correctness urges us to “tolerate” everything, and efforts to eliminate prayer and the most important Father, our Creator God and His 10 commandments from public places (along with parents who have eliminated them from their homes) is showing results such as the sickening example of the man being beaten to death by a mob, one of whom was only 10.
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

Where have all the fathers gone? At least seven parents of the mob members are convicted felons, and one was stabbed to death. I think of the many of our Creator Father’s laws that were broken by these parents and their children who were involved in the mob-caused death: “Put no other gods before me; you shall not kill, steal, covet, nor commit adultery.”

Why does our society raise up so many citizens to go to prison? Remember our tax money supports them. Isn’t every crime, every law that is broken, a sin against the commandments? Everything that is legal is not necessarily moral!

Making abortion legal was one of the first steps to eliminate responsibility for ones actions. If one gets caught conceiving a life that is inconvenient or unwanted, one can kill the evidence, and life was made cheap. The lies were promoted that an unborn baby was merely a blob of tissue, a product of conception. So why does the passage of time make something illegal that once would have been legal?

In the minds of the mob, the murdered man may have been seen to be just a blob of tissue, a product of conception that had grown to adulthood and became inconvenient to them. The terrorism against innocent life in the womb that has taken place for over 25 years, was magnified greatly for eyes that were too blind to see on 9/11, and now by a serial sniper.

Parents need to take their job seriously and prepare your children to leave home—first, whtn they start school and later when they leave home as young adults. Fathers who have abdicated responsibility need to take it back and to provide male leadership, first at home and then in society at large.

Alice Mueller

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
March 16, 2002

CHEER BRAINS AND BEAUTY: SO WHAT IF SURGERY HELPED

Aren’t there far more serious news worthy topics than TV news analyst Greta Van Susteren’s new look? Or is it a bit of reverse prudery, as when Ashcroft was criticized for covering up the statue behind him at taxpayers’ cost?

Van Susteren changed her looks at her own expense and is being judged for it. Brittany Spears’ talent is her voice, and yet she is treated almost as a god because of her “bod” and how much of it she displays. Why should a woman be criticized if she has both brains and beauty?

“You go, Greta girl!”

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
June 13, 2002

PRISON PROGRAMS ARE FAR TOO FEW
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

June 5, 2002
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

The thoughtful letter from the Department of Corrections employee (name withheld) (especially the fourth paragraph) is worthy of further communication. Every human is an individual with experience unique only to them. This also applies to every prisoner. Prisons deal with the end result and the dregs of our society. In a way they could be compared with the NIMBYism of trying to dispose of nuclear waste. The people and places that produce it are either ignorant of, or justify their part in it and want to ship the waste elsewhere and let someone else deal with it.

Infants are born innocent and not criminal. Every inmate is someone’s son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father or mother. What was it along their life’s journey that made them commit crime? As with nuclear waste, wouldn’t the best solution be to try to stop producing crime at the source? Although we’ve been told that we can’t legalize morality, isn’t every crime a sin? And weren’t our legal laws against murder, theft, false witnessing and coveting (which often leads to theft, adultery, etc.) originally from the 10 Commandments?

But it is not now popular, nor politically correct to speak against sin, or to even use the word “sin.” If one does they might be charged with a hate crime and be sent to sensitivity training: where an attempt will be made to brainwash them to be wishy-washy/tolerant and accept things which they feel are immoral. We should love the sinner, but hate the sin.

Of course, parents should be the primary teachers of spiritual and moral codes, but this “tolerance of everything” and caving in to those who have succeeded in removing God, prayer and anything biblical from public places, is the climate we’ve created which dumps so many humans into prisons.

Our Department of Corrections are in charge of managing these “human wastelands,” our prisons. It’s a dirty job and someone’s gotta do it. Inmates have a problem when they enter the system and far too often being thrown together with all the rest of the human waste, merely accelerates the problem. The name should be changed to Department of Incarceration because I see very little evidence of any “correction” going on. There are some good programs in some prisons to help rehabilitate prisoners, but they are far too few. . .

Alice Mueller

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
July 11, 2002

PRISONS SHOULD DO MORE TO REHABILITATE
July 1, 2002
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

It’s been said that a nation is known by the way it treats its prisoners and also that
"it takes a village to raise a child." I urge our citizens to question our societal village, which has raised so many children with so many problems that so many end up in prison.

Prisoners, to me, seem to be the opposite extreme of unwanted fetuses, who did not create themselves but are temporarily imprisoned in the wombs of their mothers—until they grow enough to live outside that prison, or are given the death sentence because they are an inconvenience. Of course prisoners had more input into their situation than did fetuses, and are far more of an inconvenience to the societal village that created them. But shouldn’t we also nurture these physical adults who are in “The Belly of The Beast” in the spiritual and emotional areas where they need growth, until they also can successfully live on the outside? Or should we pass a law to abort these inconveniences, also?

If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem, and some folks wrote recently, with complaints and venomous attacks against (name withheld), suggesting that she take inmates and provide for them, but did not themselves offer any solutions to our ever increasing prisons and prison population. Most prisoners will be released back into society and if those folks think our Department of Incarceration is doing such an excellent job with our tax dollars, of rehabilitating prisoners, perhaps they might prove it by volunteering to have newly released inmates, who have been caged up for many years, move next door to them.

Prisons are not meant to be easy, but shouldn’t they teach or rehabilitate so that when released, inmates will not produce more victims? How many complainers themselves have visited a prisoner as Jesus taught, to help them become better citizens? How many of these “villagers” have helped provide food, clothing and compassion for poverty-stricken children who might otherwise be tempted to steal or commit a crime?

As for prison employees who complain that their duties are so bad, why don’t they seek more pleasant employment? They must be getting some satisfaction out of making their living off other people’s suffering. Shouldn’t those with the most wisdom have the most compassion on those with the least wisdom?

Alice Mueller

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THE RICHLAND OBSERVER
November 14, 2002

Dear Editor:

Our new governor, Jim Doyle, was elected with approximately 45 per cent of the votes. This means that 55 per cent (or the majority) of the voters did not want him. This situation occurred also when Ross Perot ran for President and Bill Clinton was elected with a minority of the total votes.

This seems to be unfair and unjust representation of the majority of voters. When
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

there are more than two candidates running, and if a primary election cannot be held to narrow it down to two, perhaps we should go to a type of ballot that gives voters a “second” best choice, if one’s candidate of first choice does not win, which would more effectively represent the choices of the majority of voters.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller

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THE POST-CRESCEANT
January 25, 2003

STATE CORRECTIONS NEED CORRECTIONS

Editor, The Post-Crescent:

Our new governor, Jim Doyle, is attempting to deal with his inherited spoils, the great budget deficit.

Trying to recoup tax money spent on attorney fees to try to keep former leaders out of prison is admirable, but may be as effective as locking the barn door after the Trojan horse has entered and left.

Another place where tax money could be saved is to reform the prison industry, to eliminate so much litigation over the deaths of inmates, who were not given a death sentence by the courts, but received them in prison for various and unnecessary reasons.

The general public seems totally unaware of the great amount of money that has been paid by the Department of Corrections for such wrongful death suits.

I hope the governor investigates and tries to put an end to the causes of so many lawsuits because of the unnecessary inmate deaths.

But the government can’t do everything.

Learning and embracing the Ten Commandment laws by parents, then teaching them to their children, would help eliminate the selling of so many of our children into modern-day slavery (as inmates) to provide job security for the prison industry (construction companies, prison employees and attorneys.)

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
January 26, 2003

MERE COINCIDENCE?

Is it mere coincidence or something more that the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22 nearly coincided with the massive protests against war with Iraq? Many of the war protesters probably grew up in the “war in the wombs” zone, so may perceive it as normal and acceptable.

Now, seeing that life of the human race is threatened by circumstances larger than themselves, they might take another look at the war closer to home. Or with the commuting of 167 death sentences by outgoing Illinois Gov. George Ryan. Ryan, having realized that too many mistakes had been made in death sentences and
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

not wanting to risk executing an innocent person, made a choice to stop it.

Aren’t all unborn babies also innocent of any crime? Shouldn’t we stop executing them for what they did not do? Abortion is about sex. Sex makes babies. The abortion industry would be threatened if pro-choicers taught that choices can be made about sex before a life is conceived.

The commandment says, “You shall not kill.” The Lord said, “Vengeance is mine.” Recently a newborn baby was rescued from a toilet where it had been thrown. If a war should happen, might it be God’s sentence for 30 years of throwing new life in the pits? Let’s hope it’s not too late to commute that sentence.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
Dec. 18, 2003

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS REFLECT HER BELIEFS

Dec. 7, 2003
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

There is much sorrow and darkness, rather than peace on earth in many places during this season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. When I was a small child we carried on a tradition from my grandmother, which was to place a lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve to welcome the Christ child. I feel that now Jesus must find it difficult to find an inn in the homes and hearts of so many, even though we can light up and decorate our houses to our heart’s content. Some of the more extravagantly lighted ones have a replica of every conceivable winter and Christmas artifact “except” the one that represents the reason for the season, a Nativity scene. The factual reason for the season often seems to have been forgotten and replaced by the rituals (shopping, decorating, etc.)

The birth of Jesus Christ marked the beginning of western chronology of time, a change from B.C. to A.D. (latin for Anno Domini meaning “in the year of our Lord”) and belongs to no other individual in history, not Moses, Mohammed, Buddha, nor any other leaders, saints, prophets or prelates. Whether or not one knows this, or accepts it, or reflects it in their decorations, that fact is acknowledged every time we say or write a date. This is the Christmas season 2003, in the year of our Lord.

Alice Mueller

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
May 13, 2004

PRISONER PHOTOS SHOCK AND APPALL

May 5, 2004
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

Recent stories and pictures of abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American guards are as
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

shocking and appalling as were the recent pictures of our dead and burned soldiers on display. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that abuse by U. S. soldiers is under investigation and is “unacceptable and un-American.” If not for the pictures it would have remained secret and most of us would not believe Americans can behave as badly as our enemies. Secrecy allows such tragedies to continue. I feel the investigation of prisoner abuse should include that within our own prisons, against prisoners who, in a way, are the “prisoners of war” between good and evil.

Here in Wisconsin many unlawful death suits have been won (and paid with our tax money) because inmates who were not given a death sentence by the courts, received one at the hands of prison personnel. The corruption of war and the power of the pecking order often extents to many unseen and unheard of victims who are caught in a situation not of their making, but one they inherited by the circumstances of their birth. Getting caught up in war, in our own prison power structure, in feminist’s power over fetuses in their womb-prison; in alcohol or hate fueled riots; or in any common acceptance of immoral things can become as destructive as a great flood carrying all the debris in its path. It allows one to put blame elsewhere.

Alice Mueller

A HUMAN IS A HUMAN FROM CONCEPTION ON.

Regarding a letter in Monday’s paper about the difference between biological and human life, if aborting a human fetus does not take a human life because a human life does not yet exist, then what is the fetus conceived by the joining of a human sperm and egg? A newborn infant also cannot live on its own and needs support or it will die. Its brain does not function as well as it will in a year, or 10, or in adulthood.

When a purebred animal is impregnated and carrying a fetus, it is prized and valued. Are not humans of more value than animals?

Alice Mueller
Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
March 9, 2006

PRISON’S SPIRITUAL VOID HELPS CREATE MONSTERS

Having been in prison ministry several years, at times I’d received inmate correspondence sharing childhood details, some of which made me as physically ill and sorrowful as does the Steven Avery story.

This saga, which spotlights the failures of our criminal justice system, seems to have begun even before he was wrongfully committed to prison for a rape he did not commit. “As you give, so shall you receive,” and
society has received the tragic result for which Avery pre-paid the price.

The Department of Corrections and our politically correct “freedom from religion” society must share some of the blame for the snowballing tragedies of Avery’s wrongful imprisonment, Teresa Halbach’s death and for ending any meaningful life for Avery’s 16 year old relative, Brendan Dassey.

Inmates already have a problem when they enter the prison system, even when justly committed. Leaving these spiritually developmentally disabled ones in dormancy at taxpayer expense, while their physical development grows, may result in difficult to contain Frankenstein monster-like behavior, as that giant instinctively attempts to extinguish the social scientists that created it.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
June 8, 2006

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY IN SCRIPTURE

Scientists have now named anger, temper tantrums, road and other rages a disease called intermittent explosive disorder. They say it’s more common than previously thought. They also say that many people are unaware of the disorder, it often starts in youth, and most sufferers have other emotional disorders or drug and alcohol problems.

Duh! It took science to discover what’s in Scripture: “Why do the nations rage and people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and rulers gather together against the Lord and his anointed one, Jesus” (Acts 4:25).

Anger is one of the seven deadly sins, surrounded and corroborated by the others—pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony and sloth. The sins of the parents go down five generations (if no one does anything to stop it), becoming an inherited ignorance, so of course it starts in childhood.

We were made in God’s image, which is our spiritual part. Before separation from God’s spirit, everything was beautiful, with no wars, prisons, mental or physical illness or toxic environment. It would be wonderful if things were so simple that we could find a drug to cure this disorder. We could end divorce, war and so on by dusting the earth with serotonin.

But “once upon a time” was in the Old Testament. A large percentage of slow-learning, caterpillar-like humans have not yet undergone metamorphosis from aging adolescents to emerge in full potential as winged (spiritual) wonders.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
YOUR VIEWS August 31, 2006
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

TIME TO TRY PLAN A AGAIN

Plan B, to avoid unwanted pregnancy after unprotected sex, is now legal and available to women over age 18. Plan C, my name for the vaccination to avoid sexually transmitted diseases, is now being urged on pre-teen girls.

Plan A – avoiding unwanted pregnancy by following God’s laws—has been put to sleep by feminists who have led women to believe they can’t make a choice before sex, but only after pregnancy.

The general public proclaims to hate pimps, pedophiles and perverts who prey on innocent children. Yet, with such Plans as B and C, society itself is “pimping” younger and younger girls with “you’re OK with sin’s OK.”

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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THE BOSCOBEL DIAL
Oct. 12, 2006

WHY IS OUR SOCIETY REAPING SUCH A DEADLY HARVEST?

Oct. 5, 2006
Richland Center, WI

Editor:

Many communities are now celebrating Harvest-type, Octoberfest celebrations, which started many years ago in Germany. Those secular celebrations were not about giving thanks to our Creator for bountiful harvests (and tragedies often occurred with them). Some Wisconsin places, and elsewhere, have little to celebrate! At Weston High School, the principal was killed by a student at about the same time another student died in a car crash. A Colorado student was fatally shot and the shooter took his own life. A plot to bomb Green Bay High School by three students was foiled. In Vermont a teacher was gunned down. In an Amish Pennsylvania school five innocent little girls were shot and killed, with several still remaining in critical condition; and the shooter took his life. Scripture teaches, “As you sow, so shall you reap.” Why is our society reaping such a deadly harvest?

In the above mentioned tragedies, the deceased at least had a chance at life, were loved, mourned over and will be greatly missed. The Bible taught that when Herod ordered all male babies under two years of age to be killed, hoping to kill baby Jesus, there was great weeping and lamentation for the slain children. But since legalized abortion in 1973, there have been over 47,000,000 deaths of the innocent unborn, who were never known, loved, nor mourned for. Where are the weeping people now?

Legalized abortion, combined with the Feminist Movement, accelerated “the pecking order” to the max: “If you can’t beat ‘em (unethical males), join ‘em in harming ones more vulnerable than you are.” With our recent school killings, is God perhaps magnifying what we are too blind to see; to show and
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

tell us that killing the innocent does not solve our problems? God said, “I put before you life and death; therefore choose life.” Is it any wonder that so many have instead chosen death, when adult leaders had set the pattern by legislating the death penalty (without a jury trial) against the innocent unborn? Though there are still consequences for our actions, God is a forgiving God and will forgive if people repent and sin no more.

Alice Mueller

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
July 19, 2007

BELIEFS AND THE BIBLE DON’T ALWAYS AGREE

Regarding the pope’s statement that only Catholics have the means of salvation, there are many good Catholic people who have been born into erroneous beliefs and have not believed their own bibles.

In the book of John, Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” The wealthy, worldly Vatican kingdom has raised money by selling indulgences and been forced to pay some of its wealth in lawsuits against pedophile priests. This rather than using that money to house the homeless, feed the hungry and so on.

Salvation is by grace, not dependent on confessions to a priest or a succession of humans. As it says in John 14:26, “The Father will send the Holy Spirit in my name,” not a man.

Some other erroneous interpretations in Roman Catholicism’s history include changing the second commandment about worshiping graven images, because there churches are full of them, and changing the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday to coincide with the pagan practice of worshiping the sun god. Most Protestant religions followed, and still follow, the Roman church in changing the sabbath.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
August 16, 2007

MORAL ‘INFRASTRUCTURE’ NEEDS EXAMINATION

I don’t feel justice was total in Eric Hainstock’s verdict. People must atone for their actions, regardless of age, but Eric is the “whipping boy” for others who’ve escaped justice.

His biological mother abandoned him, a half brother sexually molested him at age 6, an abusive father and step-mother failed to provide a nurturing environment, social service agencies failed him and classmates taunted him. All contributed to weakening his moral infrastructure until the pressure caused a collapse.

Often laws enable crime by removing or distancing effects from causes.

It says in the Bible that a good tree cannot bear bad
fruit, and in Exodus 34:7 that the sins of the fathers go down to the fourth generation. So why does Wisconsin have the highest incarceration rate on the planet, now added to by the life of another teenaged boy?

Alice Mueller
Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
January 22, 2008

FIX LEGAL ABORTION MISTAKE

Sometimes truth is hard to take, and we all react in various ways to different stimuli.

A recent news article indicated someone was offended by receiving in the mail a tiny, plastic image of life in its 11 or 12 week stage, sent out as educational material.

Also, there is controversy about giving rape victims emergency contraception, or the Plan B drug. Rape victims deserve our compassion, but where is the outcry for “Plan A” to stop rape and sexual fornication by trying to eliminate the causes rather than treating the effects?

As we reach another Roe v. Wade anniversary, my sorrow is renewed about America’s holocaust that made it legal for an innocent life to take the rap for its parents’ actions. Roe v. Wade was a mistake which legalized killing the “results” of sexual actions while allowing the causes to continue.

Humans have free will and the ability to choose between right and wrong. People who are pro-abortion forget that humans have the right to choose responsibility before having sex and creating a pregnancy, and not only after. It’s more logical to be offended by mistakes and try to eliminate them, and to be inspired and awestruck by images of new life.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
March 12, 2008

IMMORAL LEADERS LEAD TO IMMORAL YOUTH

The political scandal involving New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer seems to have made at least a small dent in our sensibilities. We’ve been so desensitized to such things that we accept David Letterman’s recent remark, “I thought Bill Clinton legalized this years ago,” as Gospel truth.

The biblical passage in James 3:1 teaches, “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that you will receive a greater judgment,” but apparently not in our time in which Clinton received merely a slap on the wrist.

Another news story reveals that one in four American girls aged 14 to 19 has a sexually transmitted disease. These girls were not infected without sexual contact with infected males, who either have or are carriers of such diseases.
Dear Editor: ‘Past Tense to Present Tense’ Righter’s Journey

Planned Parenthood and others have criticized abstinence programs as not working. Of course they don’t work if not practiced! Doesn’t anyone see the relationship between this and the lack of sexual discipline among too many immoral leaders?

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
October 31, 2008

U. S. MUST HAVE MORAL LEADERSHIP

Presidential election issues include the economy, the war in Iraq and abortion. In our country, the war in the wombs against our most vulnerable, innocent citizens goes on unabated, and focuses on killing results rather than eliminating causes.

Voices are heard regarding “separation of church and state” and how morality cannot be legislated. Where were those voices when the state inserted itself into church by legislating immorality with no-vault divorce and legalized abortion?

A recent report stating that over 50 percent of young moms’ babies are born out of wedlock failed to mention that it also means over 50 percent of the dads were unwed (unless the were married to someone else). It costs taxpayers billions annually to support single-parent families.

Barack Obama has said we can agree on reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, but he failed to say how that may be accomplished. Spiritual advice, including abstinence, is nay-sayed, yet immorality, whether illegal or secularly legal, is bankrupting taxpayers. We can’t expect government to solve all our problems.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL
November 2, 2008

WE MUST PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Potential voters for our next president have been attempting to discover where the candidates stand on various issues. One subject that Barack Obama chooses not to dwell on, if at all possible, is Joe or Josephine, the unborn baby. His health care plan for these most vulnerable, helpless and voiceless citizens is that they can be eliminated at will (without a trial, judge or jury) and not for anything they did but for what their parents did—even if they survived an attempted abortion and are born alive.

A nation is judged by how it treats its most needy and helpless citizens.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center

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RICHLAND OBSERVER
November 6, 2008

SIGN THIEVES DON’T BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH
Dear Editor:

Sometime during the dark, late hours of Nov. 1 (or early morning of Nov. 2) someone secretly and stealthily trespassed on my property and took a political yard sign from its metal holder. I also discovered that a similar sign had been removed from a yard a few blocks away. Apparently, the darkness blinded the eyes and mind of the trespasser to my adjacent “10 Commandment” sign, especially the part that states, “You shall not steal.”

It seems that the person who took the signs does not believe in “Freedom of Speech,” or the laws against thievery. Actions speak louder than words and I feel that, especially in this case, the person’s actions spoke much louder than the words on my sign.

Sincerely, Alice Mueller
Richland Center

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
November 28, 2008

NOT A CIVIL RIGHT TO MAKE BAD CHOICES

Regarding a recent letter on abortion and civil rights, pro-lifers do care about the civil rights of the living from conception to natural end and try to help, but they can’t support the effect of everyone’s bad choices.

Our government does not force anyone to create unwanted children. Abortion focuses on killing the results of bad choices, not eliminating causes. Those who choose sexual activity (responsibly or irresponsibly) are practicing their freedom of choice, not a civil right. China’s “forced abortion after one child” policy is an example of what could happen here if we continue to allow the criminalization of, and state’s insertion of itself into religion.

A State Journal article reported that taxpayers pay approximately $112 billion annually to support single parent families. In addition, taxpayers support—at great cost—those who are in prison because of their irresponsible choices. Rights and freedoms are privileges that come with responsibility.

Alice Mueller, Richland Center