

Some Prefer Print, But Online Looks Forward

It seems like everywhere I have gone the last few weeks I run into people telling me how glad they are that *The Telegraph* has a printed edition again.

We've also received letters, e-mails and phone calls of approval.

The truth is, we never really completely stopped having a printed edition. I printed three copies off on my computer and kept one hard copy for our files and gave the other two to a couple of older ladies who are very special to me. Some of those went through the U.S. postal mail.

The St. Joseph Public Libraries were good enough to print off a copy from the electronic link we send out each week for their patrons to read in their reference rooms. That gesture has been appreciated.

But, we did not have printed copies available by subscription for 17 months. The decision to quit mass-producing printed copies in January, 2009 was a necessary financial move to keep *The Telegraph* going--otherwise we would have went out of business.

Now we have printed copies available by both subscription and single-copy news stand sales.

This issue and the next few weeks will be in the tabloid-style like we have been printed in the past. But many weeks we will be printed on 8.5 by 11 inch paper--"newsletter style."

There is no way to take a 11" by 17" page down to a common 8.5 by 11 without reducing the size of the print and pictures.

I've said this publicly before, but I want to make sure that subscribers understand, so that no one thinks they are being taken advantage of.

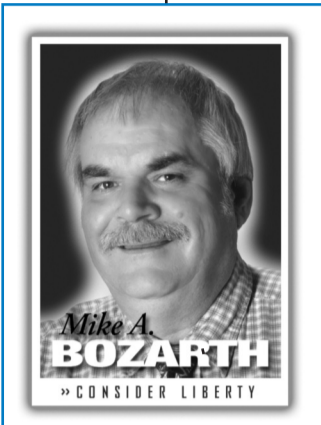
When we went (mostly) online last January, we offered e-mail subscriptions to all subscribers at the time. For those who did not have e-mail, we offered to send it to a family member or charity who did.

Some did not respond at all. Actually the number was about 105-115 subscribers who got "left out."

Those are the folks we are mailing to now. We pro-rated out the remainder of subscriptions and everyone

should be getting the balance of their subscriptions by mail. This issue should have expiration dates at the top of your mailing label. Plus we have picked up some new subscribers in the last three weeks.

If you receive *The Telegraph* by e-mail and I started sending you a printed copy that you don't need, - please send an e-mail and let us know.



Advantages to Our Electronic Edition

There are several advantages to our electronic edition.

1) **Free** Probably the best reason to get our electronic version is that it is completely free. All you need to do is send your e-mail address to info@stjtelegraph.com and we will send you a link each week for the new issue.

2) **Full-Color.** Our online version is completely in full-color. Our pictures, and advertising both look so much better in color than they do in

black and white.

3) **Eco-Friendly.** Trees don't have to be cut down for the electronic issue. Trees and plants change our used and polluted air into oxygen for us to breathe.

4) **Faster.** As soon as each new issue is done, it gets posted on our website. Your access is instant. With the printed copies, I have to go to the printer to pick them up and then take them to the news stands and to the post office for mailing. It takes one-three days to receive the issue by postal mail.

5) **The future.** It seems like we see another newspaper fold every few weeks. I'm convinced the trend is for people to get their information via the internet.

With the cheaper publication price, full color, ecologically-friendly, and instant access to each issue, our emphasis will remain with our electronic issue.

But for those who don't have or want to use the internet, once again we welcome you to our reader family. And as always, we thank you for reading *The Telegraph*!

"To 'C' or Not to 'C'..."

that is the Proposition." And, indeed, it is: Proposition C coming right at you just in time for the side-splitting, heart-warming horseplay of the August Third Primary. Originally intended as an extraordinarily dull bit of legislation that would have allowed insurance companies to dissolve in Missouri with the permission of the State Commissioner, the part about allowing Missourians to "opt out" of a 2014 Federal mandate that will require most citizens to have health insurance or risk a fine was slammed onto it like a boxcar. That's what gives "Prop C" its allure. Pap Finn "wannabes" love it; bitterly disappointed idealists who suffer under the knowledge that all their failures and miseries are caused by "the gummint," and if "the gummint" would just leave them alone, they'd be happy, healthy, handsome, safe, and rich in no time at all.

Not that everyone who objects to new benefits and requirements in national healthcare is a Pap Finn. Others, how many can't be known for certain, are paid shills of the corrupt elements of America's massive insurance industry. This group is comprised mainly of lobbyists and bought-off politicians and their sycophants. It never fails to disappoint that among these are many excessively conservative fundamentalist evangelical Christians who follow legislators like remoras following sharks,

hoping to attach. (Remoras are small fish that stick themselves to a shark with a suction-cup on their heads. But they're not parasites - merely practiced opportunists awaiting leftovers. Sharks, being messy eaters, provide them with "table" scraps. One cannot choose but wonder what the various political remoras get from the politicians to whom they attach.)

Some objections to Prop C arise from Libertarians (though a few that seem to come from Libertarians are more likely coming from camouflaged insurance shills). There is a deceptively simple, dangerously appealing aspect to their position, which seems to support freedom and liberty but only does so at the expense of responsibility and safety. Basically, it is the assertion that the government should not force citizens to buy a product. Somehow, many well-accepted American practices are overlooked, such as the virtually universal requirement to have automotive liability insurance (which came about through federal pressure); or participation in Social Security, or seat belt laws, or the draft, or passports, or criminal checks for firearm purchases, and so on. Part of this argument too, is that private business is more efficient than the government so everything ought to be "priva-

tized." (I have most recently heard this from a retired friend on Social Security who had just come from the VA where he gets his health care as we were talking with his wife who had just returned from the public

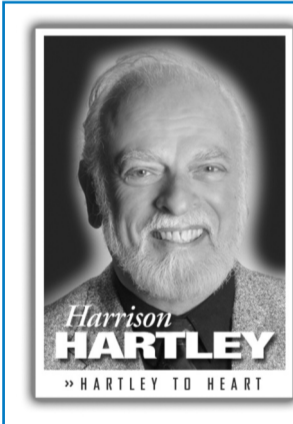
library - on public streets running over public sewers guarded by public police and military forces. "Does this include you investing your Social Security on Wall Street, paving your own street, and digging your own well?" I asked. He changed the subject.) In its most extreme form, the reaction against Proposition C (and legisla-

tion like it) is a reprise of the "state's rights" argument, an illogical piece of pseudo-reasoning that leads straight to anarchy. The states, this argument runs, can't be forced to do anything because federal law is subject to their approval. Of course, the last time this policy was asserted was 1860, and it was a disaster. Sadly, a century and a half later, people are still fighting the Civil War and even talking of secession. Dan Moore has an answer to this nonsense: "We whipped you once and we can do it again." That may not be diplomatic, but it is exactly the case. It is also the case that if the States should be free not to comply with federal laws, why not counties? If counties, why not townships? If townships, why not towns? If towns, why not neighbor-

hoods? If neighborhoods, why not households? If households, why not ME?

Liberty, like it or not, entails responsibilities, and civilization, like it or not, is a cooperative effort.

Proposition C only makes sense if we are willing to let people die in the streets. Current law mandates hospitals to accept the uninsured in their emergency rooms - usually the most expensive care there is - and we who have insurance pay for it through higher premiums. Expanding the pool only makes sense: people who can afford health insurance should have it so the rest of us don't have to carry them or watch them die. New regulations also make insurance more affordable and portable, and nobody can be excluded because of "pre-existing conditions" or summarily dropped if a claim is filed. Several states have tried this "opt out" trick - Georgia, Virginia, Idaho, and Utah passed bills and Arizona, Oklahoma, and the Medicare Capital of the World, Florida, are trying, but it's a throwback to laissez faire medicine at best, and not likely to survive a legal challenge. Missouri's "Prop C" is the same, and it's grade for good sense and both humane and fiscal responsibility is "F." Vote it down



VERSE of the WEEK

"Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

- LUKE 10:8-9

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David R. Stevenson, R.Ph.
Deanne Jungbluth, Pharm.D., R.Ph.