

## CONFESSIONS OF A CONFUSED DAD:

### Senior Moment

BY JEFF MARTINDALE

*Special to The Collierville Herald*

Upon my arrival home following every work day, it is standard practice that after I greet my family, I retreat into my bedroom and change into comfortable clothes before settling down for some “me” time.

My wife, Lana, and the boys know well that I get irritable if I’m not allowed to decompress before I eat dinner or deal with discipline issues.

“Me” time usually involves reading the newspaper and perusing the mail. So it occurred one recent evening when, sitting in my favorite recliner – the 20-year-old eyesore that Lana would undoubtedly prefer I cast to the curbside and replace with a 21st century model that color-coordinates with our den – I examined the day’s mail, my attention grabbed by a unique envelope that caught my eye.

What I first thought was an ordinary piece of junk mail turned out to be an extraordinary piece of junk mail.

Time Magazine had sent me a remarkable subscription offer: 57 weekly issues for only \$20, a savings of \$237.40 off the cover price!

“What’s that?” asked Will, plopping down on the couch beside me.

“A great deal!” I answered emphatically, hoisting the correspondence over my head like a trophy.

“For what?”

I handed him the mailing and he analyzed it. Suddenly, his brow plunged between his eyebrows.

“What does that mean, Daddy?”

My eyes followed his finger to a corner of the form. My head dropped and my shoulders slumped. The highlighted small print that had escaped my attention read: “For Senior Citizen Use Only.”

“It means that Daddy’s not getting Time Magazine,” I grumbled.

“Why not?”

“Because it’s for senior citizens.”

“What’s a senior citizen?”

“Someone older than me.”

“How much older?”

Good question. Intuitively, I know I’m middle-aged, but senior citizenship seems more like a vague target on the horizon than an imminent reality. But since inquiring minds wanted to know, I debated whether to answer with the AARP definition, age 50, or perhaps that of the retirement age, 65. After a moment’s consideration, I chose the latter.

“You’re not a senior citizen!” Will proclaimed.

“Amen, brother!” I declared, raising a gimme five that Will slapped enthusiastically.

Later I reflected that it won’t be many years before AARP solicits my membership. Not that I’m dreading it – who am I to turn

down Hampton Inn discounts and prescription savings for only \$12.50 per year. I’ll break even in weeks!

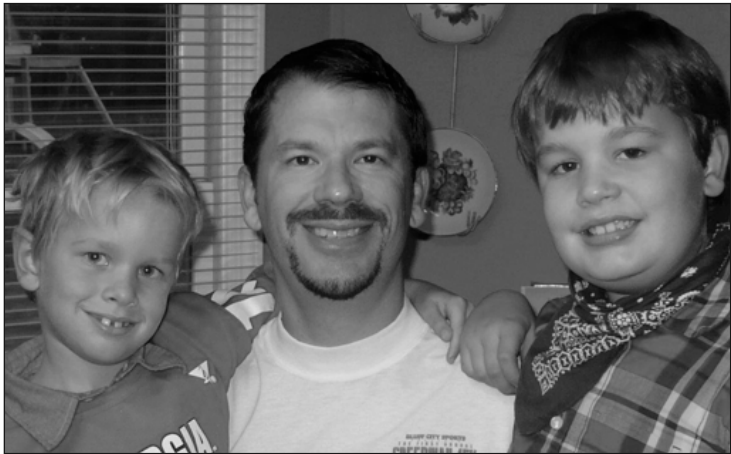
I consider myself young at heart – maybe too young sometimes – and I hope that I’m aging gracefully, but now and then I’m reminded – usually by my wife – that I’m stubborn to the notion that there are some things I shouldn’t do at age 40, like running 50-yard sprints with Will’s Cub Scout den last February, which resulted in a torn hamstring muscle.

With the benefit of hindsight and two months of physical therapy, I can look back and laugh at it now for it must have been funny from the kids’ perspective to watch their Cubmaster hop around on one leg after crossing the finish line as if feigning injury when, in fact, I had torn my right hamstring so badly that I wouldn’t walk normally for a month.

The irony is that I’ve run marathons for three years and just seconds earlier had warned the boys about the risks of injuring oneself without proper stretching. I try to lead by example, but I think I took that one too far.

Speaking of going too far, I think not only is it unfair for Time Magazine to tempt people with subscription offers they can’t redeem without being dishonest, it is outright disrespectful for them to include in that offer the free gift of an Ultronic Laser Level, which combines laser technology with an 8-foot, self-retracting measuring tape and handy suction cups for affixing it to just about any surface. Its sleek, taxi-cab yellow design beckoned me like bait on a hook, yet I knew it would never occupy a place on my workbench, so I reluctantly tossed the offer in the recycling bin.

It’s just as well, I suppose. I need another tool like I want a barium enema. But the laser level would sure come in handy around the house, like hanging pictures in difficult places, assuming that I don’t fall off the ladder, of course. I have to be mindful about these things now. I am getting older after all.



Jeff Martindale is a Collierville resident and proud father of two elementary school-age boys. You can learn more about his writings at [jeffmartindalebooks.com](http://jeffmartindalebooks.com).

## In the Garden with Carl Wayne

### The Bad-Boy Breakfast

I was a bad, bad boy this morning when I ate breakfast. My cholesterol count most likely jumped higher than my IQ score and bowling average, combined. By the way, my bowling average has improved since I started bowling with our granddarlings. Those side rails help a lot.

Breakfast was biscuits with gravy and scrambled eggs with pork brains. A new soul-food restaurant opened in town, and the can of precooked pork brains in the pantry was staring at me when I opened the pantry. Putting two and two together, I went straight there. The devil made me do it.

Sure enough, they were happy to cook them for me.

The cook said she used to cook them for her daddy.

I had been putting off cooking this meal myself. Mimi, my wife, takes good care of me. Her diligence keeps my borderline diabetes from escalating. My genes keep my cholesterol low.

I didn’t buy the can of pork brains. My friend Tommy did and gave it to me as a present, so, I reasoned, I should eat them out of respect. Mimi didn’t think so, for my health reasons.

We used to eat many things we don’t eat anymore. Daddy ate sardines on crackers with hot sauce. We chil-



CARL WAYNE  
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dren had ketchup on ours. We also loved saltine crackers spread with mayonnaise, then coated with black pepper. Try it; you’ll like it. The mayonnaise keeps the pepper from burning. Momma had to make do with one fryer to make fried chicken for supper. She cut it into pieces you can’t get at KFC. She cooked the neck, the back, the pulley bone, the liver, the gizzard and the heart. I remember when KFC sold livers and gizards, but that was long ago. Momma would order them often, and me, occasionally.

“He that but looketh on a plate of ham and eggs to lust after it hath already committed breakfast with it in his heart.”

~ C. S. Lewis

She cooked fatback and streak-o-lean bacon. She soaked the fatback all night to get most of the salt out of it, then trimmed off the rind, sliced it up and fried it for our breakfast. It was mostly fat, while the streak-o-lean at least had a streak of lean. (Sounds like a Jeopardy “Stupid Answers” question in that somewhere.)

Mimi and her momma, Opal, make chocolate gravy to have with biscuits, but rarely anymore. They know I don’t need the calories. It is delicious, though.

And that was a delicious breakfast this morning. I’ll have to thank Tommy and tell him about the soul-food restaurant – and that you have to bring your own can of precooked pork brains.

*Carl Wayne loves to garden and raise heirloom tomatoes. He leads the Collierville Victory Garden and is on the Master Gardener landscaping team. He writes for several Southern journals, including bodock-post.com, and is available to speak to groups at no charge. Contact him at 485.6910 or email my-maters@yahoo.com.*



Aug. 10: Theft of Property Under \$500 – Resident of home on West Street reported to responding officer that an unknown suspect had taken part of her automobile’s sunroof and removed the inside door panel on the passenger side between 8:30 p.m. the night before and 7:35 a.m. The car was parked in the drive. Estimated loss was \$400.

Aug. 14: Possession of a Controlled Substance – Officer stopped a 25-year-old Memphis resident for traveling 75 mph in a 65 mph zone on Hwy. 385. The driver gave the officer consent to search his Grand Marquis. The officer found a baggie containing 1 gram of marijuana. The driver was issued a misdemeanor citation and released.

Aug. 14: Theft of Property Over \$1,000 – Officers responded to a call from a business on Hwy. 72 where the witness saw two male suspects in dark clothing cutting catalytic converters from cars, later determined to number seven. The suspects split up and fled. A K-9 unit and Memphis Air One were in the area, but the suspects were not apprehended. Loss was estimated at \$3,500.

Aug. 15: Theft of Property Over \$1,000, Vandalism Under \$500 – Complainant reported the theft of a 16 by 7-foot Big Tex PIP Red flatbed trailer missing from an enclosure surrounded by a locked chain link fence that an unknown sus-

Crime, Pg. A12

## In Brief

### Collierville Animal Services judged among best

Collierville Animal Services (CAS) has been named among the nation’s 12 best animal services for its programs for cats.

CAS achieved the distinction as a result of being recommended by the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) when Animal Planet and Fresh Step Litter officials asked for nominations earlier this year. From the nominations, 12 cities were chosen as sites for the Animal Planet Expo, which in Memphis was held Aug. 23-24 at Shelby Farms.

CAS participated in the Fresh Step Pet Den at the expo. “The Pet Den was a great way for our kittens and dogs to be showcased for adoption. We had over 10 animals adopted through our efforts and generated a lot of awareness for our shelter,” said Nina Wingfield, CAS director.

CAS’ cat rescue, socialization, foster and shelter care, outdoor habitat, adoption screening, Feral TNR (Trap/Neuter/Relocate), “barn” placement, humane education and community awareness/outreach programs were cited as among the best in the Mid-South. For that distinction, Fresh Step Litter awarded CAS a \$5,000 check. CAS also received a \$250 bonus check from the company for participating in the Pet Den. A ceremonial check will be presented to the Collierville BMA on Sept. 22.

“Our dedicated staff and volunteers work very hard to move us forward in the shelter’s mission of providing a second chance for every animal that walks through our door,” said Assistant Town Administrator Chip Petersen.

– Mark Heuberger/Town of Collierville

### Recycling rebates available

The Department of Environment and Conservation’s Division of Solid Waste Management is notifying 11 counties and their municipalities that they are eligible for recycling rebates based on their final 2007 waste generation reporting data.

Recycling rebates are made available to the 11 counties that generate the most waste in Tennessee, based on data reported for both landfilled and diverted waste. The rebate requires a dollar-for-dollar match, and may be used for establishing new program and collection sites, preparing recyclable materials for transport, marketing and developing educational programs to promote and advertise recycling.

A total of \$600,000 is available for recycling rebates from the Solid Waste Management Fund, with funds allocated to county and municipal governments based on county waste generation data and population. All counties and municipalities must apply to the Department of Environment and Conservation for the rebates.

The 11 counties eligible to share the current pool of funding include Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Maury, Montgomery, Rutherford, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner and Williamson Counties.

The municipalities eligible for rebates in Shelby County are Arlington, \$816; Bartlett, \$10,180; Collierville, \$8,373; Germantown, \$7,981; Lakeland, \$1,717; Memphis, \$144,147; and Millington, \$2,202.

More information about recycling rebates and other solid-waste assistance programs is available online at [tn.gov/environment/swm/grants](http://tn.gov/environment/swm/grants).

– Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

## THE COLLIERVILLE HERALD

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### Letters to the Editor

The Collierville Herald welcomes and encourages letters to the editor on subjects of interest to residents of the Collierville area.

All letters must have the writer’s name, address, a daytime phone number or email address.

Addresses and phone numbers will not be published but are required in case a need arises to confirm authorship or to clarify content. Anonymous letters will not be considered. All letters are subject to editing for length and legal considerations.

Letters can be submitted by email at [editor@colliervilleherald.net](mailto:editor@colliervilleherald.net) or mailed and faxed. Deadline for letter submission is Friday by 5 p.m.