

## CONFESSIONS OF A CONFUSED DAD:

### The Wedding is Over!

JEFF MARTINDALE

*Special to The Collierville Herald*

What does love mean?

A distant aunt recently forwarded me an email with this intriguing question in the subject line. I have an extremely low tolerance for spam and don't often read forwarded "funnies," but the subject hooked me like a summer trout. Upon opening the message, I learned that a professional study had posed the aforementioned question to a group of 4- to 8-year-olds, whose humorous and surprisingly insightful responses entertained me immensely.

For instance, Karl, 5, said: "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

Elaine, 5: "Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

This one's my favorite:

Bobby, 7: "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

These perceptive and amusing answers gave me a moment's pause and prompted me to reflect on my own children's perception of love and marriage.

My two sons relate to girls like most boys their age – with disdain and from a comfortable distance. Anytime we mention the g-word ("girlfriend"), they contort their faces as if presented a plate of green vegetables for dinner.

I try to empathize with them, although sometimes I'm hard-pressed to remember what I had for breakfast, much less recall what it was like to be 8 years old. However, I do remember a particular fondness for a girl named Shelby, not that I would have claimed it at the time, even if threatened with being stripped to my underwear before the student body.

I had a Rock of Gibraltar-sized crush on her, but persistent shyness precluded any reasonable conversation that didn't include stuttering and fidgeting. I remember once trying to sneak a Valentine's Day card on her desk while her back was turned. But in my rush to get away, I brushed up against her arm, surprising her. She twirled around and I froze in the middle of the aisle, my opened mouth and anguished features resembling a Pompeii victim frozen in time.

"Thank you, Jeff," she said, smiling. At least, I think that's what she said, distracted as I was by a warm, liquid sensation progressing down my leg.

Anyhow, while my boys have no girlfriend they confess to, they seem quite passionate about stifling public displays of affection between me and my wife, Lana. We can't hold hands in the car without one of them springing forward to break our grasp. Of course, their desperate attempts are invariably

foiled by taut seat belts, and it's hard not to chuckle at their cartoonish features – googly eyes, flushed cheeks, bared teeth, fingers played on extended arms – as they tense against the restraints.

At any rate, Lana and I were kissing and hugging in the kitchen one recent evening. The next thing we knew, small hands wedged themselves between our bellies. We looked down to find Will pushing us apart like a boxing referee separating two pugilists in close quarters.

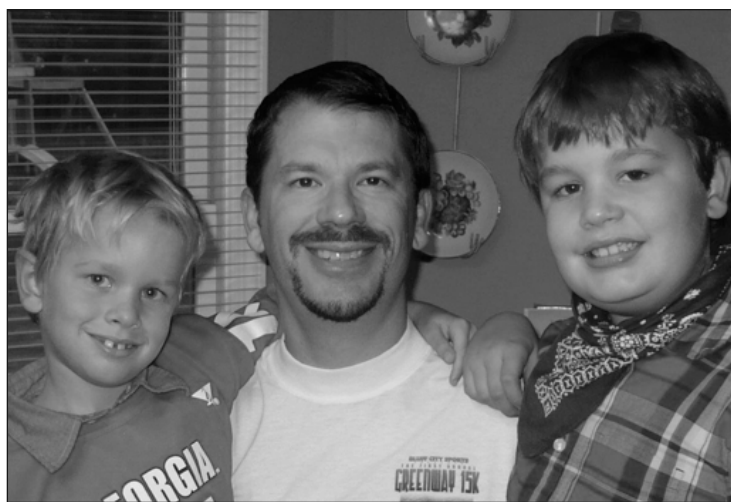
"Hey!" he yelled, inserting himself between us, index finger extended in mock reprimand. "The wedding is over!"

Once we composed ourselves – that is, once we regained our breath after doubling over with laughter – Lana and I explained the benefits of showing affection to each other:

No. 1: It's a visible sign that Mommy and Daddy love each other. No. 2: It shows that you're never too old for hugs and kisses. No. 3: It helps to get Daddy's laundry done. (Okay, maybe not No. 3.)

Anyway, I'll continue to verbally and visibly express my love for Lana not only for the boys' benefit, but also because I want to. I'll express my love for the boys, too, although I know the time will come when they'll receive my displays of affection with the enthusiasm of a teenager anticipating an early wake-up call.

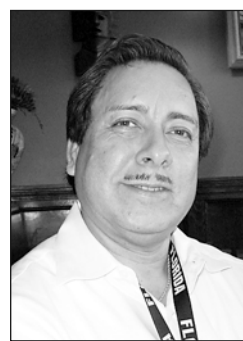
Frankly, I often wonder why some children – particularly teenagers – dislike receiving public displays of affection from their parents. But then I have to remind myself about the two basic rules of parenting: Rule No. 1 is that kids grow up. Rule No. 2 is that parents can do nothing to prevent rule No. 1.



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

## TALK OF THE TOWN

Are you changing anything about your daily life as a result of the government's proposed bailout of the financial system?

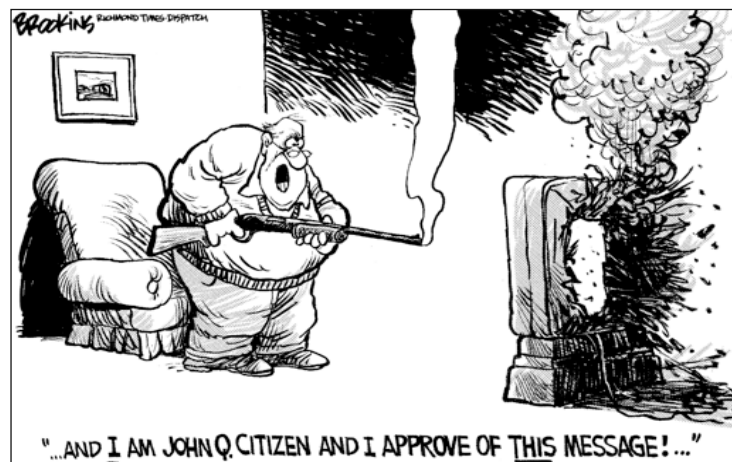


No, nothing that I'm doing different.

Efrain Guzman,  
Collierville

Christmas is every day. As long as I wake up, I know that I can make a difference

Dr. Glen Burford,  
Collierville



## Collierville man arrested on meth-making charges

Detectives with the Collierville Police Department's Specialized Enforcement Unit arrested a 30-year-old Collierville resident for manufacturing methamphetamine Sept. 25.

According to police reports, the department received a complaint on Sept. 22 from the owner of a rental home on Simmons Ridge. The owner reported going to the residence to serve an eviction notice to the tenants, but they had already moved out.

The owner reported cleaning out the property and finding ephedra packs, batteries that had been cut in half, two-liter bottles that had been cut in half, muric acid, large bags of fertilizer and burn marks on the home's walls.

Detectives located the former residents of the Simmons Ridge property at a residence on Bouldincrest Avenue. When questioned about purchasing the ephedra-based products, Jody Ray Foster's mother reported she bought them for him after he threatened her and only bought them out of fear. Foster's brother reported seeing bruises on his mother and reported he and his children also had been threatened by Foster.

Both the mother and brother reported knowing Foster was making methamphetamine but said they knew nothing about a lab at the Simmons Ridge property.

Detectives placed Foster into custody on the scene and he was transported to the Collierville jail.

— Michael Ward/The Collierville Herald

## In Brief

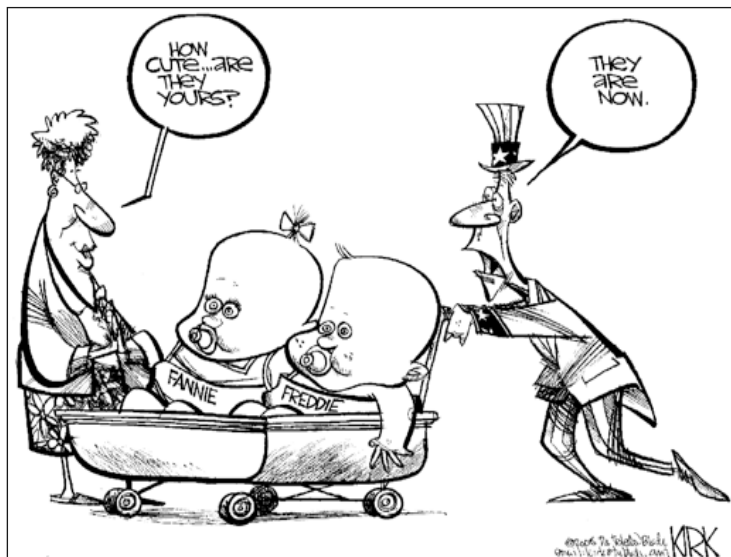
### Small business association backs Norris

Tennessee Senate Republican Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) has received the endorsement of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), an association representing small businesses. The NFIB's endorsement of 56 legislative candidates covering both parties and houses of the General Assembly included Norris, who is running for re-election in the 32nd State Senatorial District.

Norris co-sponsored an important bill allowing the formation of small group health cooperatives for the purpose of obtaining health insurance and was a leader of the important 2004 reform package that stabilized that the workers' compensation market for small business.

Norris represents the West Tennessee counties of Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby.

— NFIB



## THE COLLIERVILLE HERALD

Serving the Collierville Area since 1870

THE COLLIERVILLE HERALD  
is published each Thursday.

148 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017  
news@colliervilleherald.net  
Telephone 853-2241 • FAX 853-8507  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Publisher Editor  
Lee Ann Krueger Joan P. Crowe

USPS 122300  
Second Class Postage paid at Collierville, TN

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$24 per year in Collierville and Collierville Rural Routes. \$28 per year elsewhere, payable in advance.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Collierville Herald, P.O. Box 427, Collierville, TN 38027

### 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.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Pantry appreciates generosity, wants to smooth the way

The Collierville Food Pantry wishes to thank the many individuals, groups and local businesses in our area for the outpouring of support and donations received after recent news articles. The generous donations of nonperishable food and cash have been an enormous help in restocking our shelves.

Many people contacted us seeking an opportunity to help others but were having difficulty finding the pantry or fitting in dropping off donations during the limited hours of operation. The pantry regrets the inconvenience and would like to make it easier.

The Collierville Food Pantry is located at 167 Washington Street, which runs east off the square. The pantry is located in the west side of a brown building one block off the square, on the south side of Washington Street. The pantry shares the building with the Collierville Literacy Council and the Health Department. A green sign directs deliveries to the pantry, located at the rear of the building.

The pantry is open every Thursday morning from 9-11:30, but if needed, another time can be arranged to drop off donations by calling the director, Joyce Sogga, at 853.6992.

Suzanne Lax  
Food Pantry Volunteer