

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I've just gotten a chance to sit down and read the June 13th edition of the Journal. Generally, we appreciate and enjoy the Journal. I was disappointed by an article on page 12 entitled "Tips on Pumping Gas".

This article was presented in the first paragraph as if the source of the tips, a worker for the Kinder Morgan pipeline, is a personal acquaintance of whoever wrote the article for the Journal.

While there is always a chance that this is true, I doubt it. This article is a forwarded email that has been circulating on the internet for about a year now. Presenting it as if you have personal knowledge of it lends a measure of authority to it that it does not deserve.

I believe it is the responsibility of the editor to at least give a cursory check of the facts, or at least have a reasonable confidence that the reporter who authored this article is being responsible. To help you towards that end, I would suggest you bookmark a few internet sites, such as:

www.snopes.com

www.truthorfiction.com

These websites exist to validate or refute the truth of the countless email urban legends that circulate via email. Here are links to what both sites have to say about your article:

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/p/pumping-gas.htm>

<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/household/gastips.asp>

As you can see, Kinder Morgan itself declines to authenticate the source of the email, and both websites arrive at the conclusion that at best, a minor gain may be had, but no strong evidence exists to suggest such a regimen to buying gas. In fact, further research on the internet will bring to serious doubt all of the claims in this article, but I will stick with the impartial snopes/truthorfiction as this is what they do best.

I would hope that you would consider printing a retraction, admitting that the source of this article was a forwarded email, not a personal contact. I also hope that you would provide the links to snopes and truthorfiction websites to your readers. Perhaps more people will start checking the accuracy of emails before clicking "forward to everyone in my address book" and propagating these myths.

Concerned about your journalistic integrity,

Matt Lettau, Orangevale

Thank you, Matt, for your information. This was provided to us from another of our readers about six weeks ago and we accepted it as written. Also, thank you for your verification source links. The retraction (or disclaimer) will

Solving the Problems of ...

Family Ties

Donald E. Werve, Jr.

This is going to be a drastic change from my usual "advice" column. I am not going to actually deal with "problems" but, rather, with a phone call from a close friend of the family who is preparing for the wedding of their daughter.

"This is about the part of reception where people stand up and make speeches, and when the mother and father offer public advice to the newly-weds.

"We have been trying to come up with a short list of advice, and seems how you and your wife have been married for almost 50 years (it will be 50 in July of next year—and how time flies when you're having fun), I thought you might be able to offer some words of wisdom ..."

So I quickly went through the past 49 years, and here are my top five pearls of wisdom—which she immediately made me promise to share with the world.

1. Live every day as it comes ... don't get tied up in what's going to happen or

in regretting what has happened. You can neither change the past nor live entirely in the future. NOW is the only life you have. Always remember that tomorrow's meal does not slake today's hunger.

2. Realize that in a successful marriage there is no "his" or "hers", or "yours" or "mine". From this day on—for better or worse—there is only "ours."

3. When you encounter problems—and you will—don't look for blame, just seek out and apply positive solutions.

4. Don't avoid disagreements, they are healthy opportunities for compromise and growth; but avoid fights—people get hurt in fights.

5. Remember, each of you and both of you, that you cannot control events; you can only control your reactions and responses to those events.

And here's a bonus: Remember that when facing sorrow, it can be diminished by sharing, and when facing happiness it will be multiplied and grow.

Congratulations.

be published under "Letters to the Editor" and attributed to you.

As for me, I can only apologize—as an editor and as an English teacher (in a previous path)—and explain that I am usually more on top of things. Unfortunately, this took place during a time of fairly intense turmoil and, equally unfortunately, this is not the only thing I missed. Please do not let this dissuade you from continuing to read the paper, nor from continuing to keep an eye on us.

Don Werve
Managing Editor

Dear Readers

Thank you for your letters and phone calls in support of our paper. They let us know our efforts are appreciated. Occasionally we also get negative feedback. These too are appreciated as it lets us know how we can improve. We received such correspondence recently from a reader regarding a comic we published that our reader found offensive. The comic in question was created from the personal experience of the artist and was in no way meant to offend. Our apologies to any readers it may have offended and Thank you to the reader who took the time and effort to share their thoughts. We will endeavor in the future to be more sensi-

tive to the impact our published items may have on our readers. Know that we appreciate your comments and encourage our readers to continue to share their thoughts with us.

Sincerely,

Don Werve, Editor

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OOPS

In the last issue, we missed changing the dates on the inside pages. Volume 1 Number 10 is the issue for Friday, June 13th.

On page 10 -- The Honorary Mayor Introduction for Lisa Montes, we really missed it on Lisa Montes' e-mail address. A tilde (~) was left out of the address. That address should have been <http://www.home.comcast.net/~lisa4ovmayor>

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