



**Paper: St. Louis Post-Dispatch**  
**Title: LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE**  
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#### Closing Of National Is Bad For Business

I have just returned from my neighborhood National Supermarket in tears. I feel as though I have attended a wake for an old friend. This was the straw that has finally driven me to this letter.

For months we have seen banks, insurance companies, health-care facilities, and now supermarkets being taken over by those with more money and power. This is now known in some areas as "re-engineering."

Those of us who are affected and have been fortunate enough to retain our position are told we are just resistant to change. That would be correct if the change were for the better for all of us - instead we lose benefits, morale declines and hard work is never praised or rewarded.

Those less fortunate lose their jobs and many have nowhere to turn - especially those over 50. Who will pay them for their experience and worth? They are told - get retrained, go back to school. So who will pay their basic living expenses, not to mention tuition, books, health insurance, while they are being retrained?

How do we teach our children the basic values of the work ethic and loyalty? How can this country survive if this continues?

I am truly concerned about our future, as well as terrified as to what may become of us if this immorality continues. Yes, I believe this sort of corporate behavior is indeed immoral and inhumane.

George Orwell was a visionary in every sense of the word. However, his book should have been entitled "1995."

A.L. Bywater

Kirkwood

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I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Federal Trade Commission in its fine service to the people of our community. They really went along with the buyout of **National Supermarkets** by Schnucks. I commend Schnucks in its wise and benevolent undertaking too.

I sincerely hope the individuals involved in this buyout will receive the happiness they deserve. Think of all the happiness many will find in looking for employment, living on unemployment, perhaps working for Schnucks, etc. Thanks also for the greater efficiency and lower prices Schnucks will bring to our area!

It should be nice also for people who will be forced to go farther for a place to shop. Possibly some boarded-up buildings will result because of this buyout. St. Louis has so many beautiful boarded-up buildings, and a few more would be very welcome!

With wise decisions like the recent buyout of National, capitalism will thrive. Eventually, St. Louis may have only one food store chain. It has one brewery and one daily newspaper already. Forward, FTC! Go, Schnucks!

Corbett McCommis

St. Louis

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#### Women Warriors

In his June 6 column, Cal Thomas defends Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Carkhuff, who was discharged from the Navy because of remarks he made concerning women in combat. Thomas did not say just what Carkhuff's objections were except that they were religious. Others have given reasons women should not be in combat, and they should be examined.

First, there is the "lust" factor. This is no more prevalent in the armed services than in any other area. How each person

behaves in this regard depends on his or her character, not one's location. If ever there was a situation where hanky panky would be a non-issue, it would be in combat under enemy fire.

House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich recently remarked that women soldiers "have biological problems staying in a ditch for 30 days because they get infections." If this was Gingrich's quaint way of referring to menstruation, I would point out that women have excelled in all areas including the most strenuous athletics in spite of this "handicap." Women's reproductive systems are no more prone to infections than those of men, especially in the age group found in combat.

There are women and men who, for various reasons, should not serve in combat. This should be decided individually, not by gender.

American women have served under enemy fire for the past hundred years, officially. They have been wounded, captured and killed. No one has ever said they shouldn't have been there. Is this because they are called nurses and, by implication, subservient? There have been references to man's superior upper body strength. There was no consideration for women's upper body strength when 120-pound nurses were caring for 200-pound combat injured men.

Clara Barton, a slightly built and soft-spoken lady, carried supplies by mule-drawn wagon to the front lines in both the Civil and Spanish-American wars. She was the founder of the American Red Cross.

The military history of John Lowell Reed, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, contains the following: "His wife, Elizabeth, fought and bested a British officer at the Boston Tea Party."

Elizabeth was my great-great-great grandmother.

Mary C. Musgrave

Glen Carbon

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Loss Of Innocence

Accolades to Cal Thomas for speaking truth and not politics in his June 8 column! He clearly stated the reason for "our lost innocence" is not the liberals in Hollywood, as Sen. Bob Dole said. Instead, he believes that parents should discipline themselves and their children from early on as to what kind of entertainment is good and acceptable and what kind is not.

What we allow our young children to view on television and at the theater when they are in elementary school and in high school is what they're most likely to follow in their adult years. Thus, they will promote the same for the children they'll eventually have, and the cycle goes on.

It begins with the parents - not Hollywood. Moms and Dads, by example, can demonstrate to their children wholesome, clean-cut entertainment habits. We need to take responsibility and turn off television shows that are not promoting family values and quit frequenting movies that are not fit for the entire family.

Conservatives can blame the liberal entertainment leaders in Hollywood for our loss of innocence, but more than likely it stems from the leaders at home.

Michael and Margaret

Barinotti

Affton

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This is to point out an error on the June 8 Commentary page. It credited Cal Thomas with the column, "Hollywood Is Not To Blame For Our Lost Innocence." The article is well-written and makes supreme sense; therefore, it could not have been written by Thomas.

Glenn Jackson

Crestwood

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Reckless On Water

I applaud the Missouri Legislature for finally taking a step to improve the conditions that have arisen on the Lake of the Ozarks

as well as the other bodies of water in Missouri.

Unfortunately, the laws don't make much of a dent in the true problem of reckless driving on the lake. I have been visiting the lake almost weekly for 20 years, and I have witnessed a drastic change over the past 10 years.

Boaters have always seemed to drive too fast at night, and that law is commendable, but the real problem lies in the "Miami Vice" style speedboats. These boats, some in excess of 40 feet, have taken over this once quiet lake, making it very dangerous during the day for smaller boats.

I own an 18-foot runabout, and in the past it was always an ample-sized boat to travel in on the lake. Sadly, during the day the boat now has no chance with the larger boats churning up the main channel constantly.

These large boats, obviously meant for a larger body of water (the Atlantic Ocean comes to mind), pose a major threat to the smaller boats. Many times I've seen drivers of these boats ignore any sense of safety, cut off sailboats, go up on plane in no-wake zones and even run them aground. All of this happens because the driver doesn't realize that the boat has so much power, and boats don't have brakes like cars.

The Lake of the Ozarks is a beautiful place to visit and is always fun, but the huge boats need to be in a larger body of water where their speed and size won't deter from the beauty of the lake. The Missouri Legislature needs to take some steps to limit the size, speed and horsepower of these boats if it wants to cut down on the almost 400 accidents last year.

Frank Ladd

Olivette

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No Loss

In reference to the June 6 article, "Flooding Rips Casino Tax Revenue," reporter Fred Faust referenced gambling losses a great number of times in this article.

A loss would be money that St. Charles and St. Louis already had and now does not. Money that was not gambled and shared with the cities is not a loss, just lack of income.

Otherwise, I could say I lost a million dollars because I didn't buy a winning lottery ticket.

Steve Huffman

St. Louis

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