

Letters

CHONG EDITORIALS

Dear Editor,

I saw a letter to the editor in the El Segundo Herald criticizing Mr. Chong for his views on the economy. I want you to know that I have found his editorials very helpful in understanding the current problems of our nation. The writer of that letter also criticized Chong for referring to Obama without using

his title. I find nothing wrong with that and recall well how often the press referred to the past president simply as 'Bush'. I sincerely hope our nation never reached the stage found in North Korea where Kim must be referred to as "Dear Leader Kim".

Yours truly,

William F. Steagall, Sr.

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

President Obama is still doggedly pressing forward on his healthcare plan, which many say is pretty darn non-specific on specifics. The Prez gave an impassioned speech last week to members of Congress, trying to move the debate forward from the partisan bickering that has surrounded the divisive issue ever since the Obama administration decided to seek a remedy to the billion-dollar healthcare "situation."

Course maybe you don't think there is a need for a remedy? As I have written before, I don't have a whole lot of quarrels with the way the PP family's healthcare has been handled. Had my colonoscopy, had a small polyp, had a breakfast burrito upon returning to the mansion, never heard back from the doc, so no news is good news. Cost us \$30 bucks or so. Including burrito. Which I didn't pay for.

Think that we have pretty good dental coverage, but after my last trip to the lady with the power tools in her hand, she mentioned that I need to slip the big buck night guard thing into my fat mouth at night cuz I grind my teeth. Well, they fashioned the guard for me about 10 years ago, I never used it, and now my teeth are apparently starting to grind down.

Not sure that the guard will work, but I guess I should listen to the good dentist's advice. Don't want to lose my chompers. By the way, the dentist said I must grind my teeth cuz I am stressed out. What the heck do I have to be stressed about?

Another digression. Sometimes, digressions may be the entire content of most of some of my columns, right? So rip me if you want. We love "Letters to the Editor,"

pro or con. Or send 'em directly to me, at [franklyplank@gmail.com](mailto:franklyplank@gmail.com).

Back to the headlines. Guess what other event made the front page headlines the day after the President's impassioned, incredible healthcare speech. By the way, most of you understand "tongue-in-cheek," right? Could it have been another salacious scandal involving a politician and some naughty, naughty actions involving said politico?

Yup, Orange County's own Assemblyman Mike Duvall abruptly resigned from his post after a videotape of him bragging about his sexual conquests found its way onto the all-encompassing Internet.

It has basically come down to this in the world of 2009: Do anything, anywhere, and you can expect said action to end up splashed across the online wasteland, whether it be posted on YouTube or TMZ. And if you are really fortunate, someone out there will take your picture on their little telephone and start instantaneously transmitting your alleged improprieties to all in their universe.

Privacy be damned, folks. We need to know, and we need to know right now. It is our unalienable right. That's in the Constitution, isn't it?

Some folks suffer misfortune by shooting themselves in the foot. It appears the ex-Assemblyman aimed a little higher, shooting himself in the groin.

What the heck was the Yorba Linda Republican thinking when he bragged to a fellow lawmaker about his extramarital escapades? Caught on tape, Duvall mused about "spankings" and "eye patch" underwear. And a few more details. My god, man! Did you sent it

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Dear Carol



Dear Carol,

My cousin recently passed away. She lived too far for me to attend the funeral so I decided to make a charitable donation in her name. Her family requested donations to an organization connected to the disease that caused her death. I have a charity nearby that I have supported for years and I want to send a donation in her name to that charity. My husband says I should honor the wishes of the family but I say a donation is a donation. Will you answer this for us?

Sally

Dear Sally,

Let's settle this once and for all; I've been hearing many similar questions lately. If the family requests a donation to a certain charity send the funds there. If you were sending flowers you wouldn't send them to a local funeral home instead of the one where her service was being held would you? Be sure to note that the funds are a tribute to your cousin and include the name and address of the family member (her closest relative) to whom the acknowledgement should be sent. Most charities have a website where you can donate with a credit card or you can

mail a check to the address you find there. If the family does not specify a charity feel free to donate to a charity of your choice. These donations are also a wonderful way to honor the special day of someone who has everything and says they don't want any gifts.

Dear Carol,

I want to buy a gift for my girlfriend's birthday and don't have any idea at all what to get for her. We've been going together for almost a year. She doesn't wear jewelry or perfume and her clothing is basic, not fancy. We go hiking, watch DVDs and to museums, she gets books from the library and I can't think of a thing she would like. I don't have a lot of money to spend. Can you give me some advice?

Lost Lover

Dear Lost,

Could you take her somewhere with great hiking trails and views for her birthday and perhaps overnight? Pack a picnic lunch and plan on reading a poem or description of nature she might like. Would she like a gift certificate for a massage? Look at the sizes and colors of clothes she wears, replace something that looks a little worn or add a piece that is a little warmer or more stylish than what she has in her closet. Is there some chore she has wanted to accomplish? A coupon for garage cleaning might be appreciated.

Flowers and a romantic dinner are usually much appreciated. Please notice the things that make her smile and give her more of them. Remembering her birthday on that date and planning something special are the most important ways to show you care.

Send questions to [askcarolnow@gmail.com](mailto:askcarolnow@gmail.com) or c/o Herald Publications, 312 E. Imperial Ave., El Segundo, CA 90245.

Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone. •



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