

---

# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

---

*The Intelligencer Journal/New Era* – January 19, 2012

## Marines' action 'no big deal'

About the TV news reports of the U.S. Marines about to be court-martialed for urinating on dead Taliban fighters -- I would do the same thing and I'm 77 years old.

I guess some people forget the way our troops and civilian contractors were treated in Somalia (dragged through streets) and Iraq, hung from bridges and mutilated and burned.

Big deal about getting urinated on.

I guess the Muslims' sensitivity means more to the U.S. government than our Marines.

Still, way to go Marines!

Robert Willauer, Mountville

## Siding with Santorum

In his Jan. 10 column, Steve Chapman sneers at Rick Santorum's faith and family program and derides his religious conservatism. I don't know who is on Chapman's side but George Washington and Alexis de Tocqueville are on Santorum's.

In his farewell address, Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity religion and morality are indispensable supports ... both reason and experience forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Tocqueville recognized the importance of respect for inviolate limits and moral boundaries.

"Religion," he wrote, "Is much more necessary in a Republic ... How is it possible that society should escape destruction if the moral tie is not strengthened in proportion as the political tie is relaxed. And what can be done with a people who are their own masters if they are not submissive to the deity?"

Wilson Bucher, Columbia

## Confusion over gas drilling

There was an interesting article regarding the failure of the Department of Environmental Protection to properly track and monitor gas wells being drilled in the Marcellus shale.

Owning property in Tioga County adjacent to state forest land, I can vouch for the "confusion" ... except I would call it "mass confusion." What is really disconcerting is that these are the same people who want us to believe what the gas companies are telling them (and the public) about the process in regards to safety. I guess future generations will really know and have to deal with the issues.

Again, it's all about the money, and the only concern the politicians have is the number of wells based on the fees ... how much that all adds up to -- nothing regarding safety.

The "gas rush" is alive and well in Northern Pennsylvania (and everyone I continue to meet has a Southern accent?), and the department charged with overseeing it can't get it right.

Why do we start something before we really know what we are doing ?

Jeff Troop, West Hempfield Township