



Forgetting the Constitution

Now we have the mayor of New York City saying, "If government's purpose isn't to improve the health and longevity of its citizens, I don't know what its purpose is." Where did he get that idea?

Then there is the headline, "Will Obama approve the legalization of marijuana?" How, in the name of reason, does a president of the United States get the power to do that?

The answer to both questions can be traced to an erosion of our understanding of, and need for, constitutional constraints on the powers of the legislative and executive branches of government.

We allow those constraints to be reduced and ignored to our own detriment.

Robert P. Fischer, Manor Township

The words "lack of" were missing

The Lancaster New Era political cartoon, June 14, titled, "National health Care," portrayed "people who take care of their bodies" caring "people who abuse their bodies."

A similar cartoon could portray "people who pay for health insurance." The point of the cartoon is that it is patently unfair and counterproductive to require responsible people to support irresponsible ones.

For those who agree with this point, who resent getting stuck with the tab, I suggest a simple solution: Require everyone to carry health insurance. Have them pay their own way.

The proposed cartoon could be titled: "Lack of National Health Care."

Mary Lou Ellsworth, Marietta

Church open to discussing Scripture, gay issue

In a letter to the editor, I invited people to come to Pride Day at Buchanan Park. Mr. C.L. Frackman responded with a different view of marriage equality and invited me to attend a prayer breakfast at his church, the Strasburg First Presbyterian.

I discovered that this was a men's meeting, so I would likely be the only woman. I was. A friend of mine, Barry, who is gay, came with me. I am not homosexual so I wanted his perspective.

We agreed right away that we were not going to attempt to change anybody's mind about Scripture; we would listen. I should also say that, in my letter, I used the word "Bible banger."

From the moment we walked in, we were greeted with kindness and respect. We ate and made small talk, and I was thinking this is good, but when will they start the inquisition.

Mr. Frackman started off the meeting by discussing our correspondence. For the next 45

minutes, a discussion took place about the different interpretations of Scripture.

In the end, nobody changed their beliefs. What did happen is both sides listened and learned something important.

I think we showed them that we don't reject God or the Bible; we just have different interpretations.

What I learned was these men are gentlemen and not bigots. I learned that they are honestly following the teachings of Jesus as they interpret them.

The Strasburg First Presbyterian Church was well represented by Mr. Frackman and the rest of the gentlemen. Comments from them after the meetings ranged from thanking us for attending to "I learned a lot today" and, "We get it" or "We understand."

But my favorite was, "Peace won't come by division. Peace will come by listening with empathy."

As for me, I will never again use the term Bible banger.

Christine Macready, West Hempfield Township