



Brubaker death sensationalized

With regard to the death of the son of state Sen. Mike Brubaker, I wish to say that I pray that all the deaths of young people under the same circumstances also be emblazoned across the front page of your paper.

I don't know Sen. Brubaker or his family, but I think the handling of this tragedy was a tragedy in itself.

We all like to think that, as parents, we are raising our children in the right way. But once they are adults, their decisions are their own.

As parents, yourselves, I am sure you know what I mean.

In the future, please be more compassionate and understanding.

Barbara J. Germer, Manor Township

Free lunches are misdirected

What is wrong with this picture?

I noticed this sign in a family medical practice: "If payment is not made at time of service, there will be a \$10 processing fee."

Obviously, you can't always plan your need for medical help. So, if you are poor and do not have insurance, you will become a bit poorer.

Same place, same visit, I saw a sales rep enter to remind the receptionist that she was providing lunch for the office. Even stranger was the scene

in the parking lot, where a caterer mentioned that two different groups were bringing in lunch that day.

So, we "bribe" (lobby) practices to use certain drugs and supplies to increase sales.

Seems to me the free lunches are going to those who can afford to buy their own food.

C.A. Heisey, Manheim

1 in 5 children are born into poverty in America

There have been numerous editorials and even some letters regarding the morality of a women terminating her pregnancy. However, there has been few articles and no letters about the fact that one out of five children in this country is born into poverty.

Children raised in poverty are not as healthy, their school achievements are lower and their emotional and cognitive development is impaired. Their life expectancy is also shorter.

It is difficult to climb out of poverty so, as these children grow into adulthood, there is a strong likelihood they will be poor. There are at least 42 million poor people and this number is growing.

Living in poverty is a moral breakdown and a threat to the stability of our society. This is particularly troubling since our country, which has the highest GDP in the world, also has the highest level of poverty in the industrial world. This is not a definition of democracy.

It is estimated that 40 percent of the poor receive nothing from the government -- neither cash nor any other kind of aid. It is a moral issue when a person working full-time remains in poverty. Nevertheless, many people believe the poor are lazy and lacking in ability so they deserve their hardship.

Subsequently, the effect of policy by the government is limited by the lack of support by the public. Conservatives believe that economic growth is the only answer to poverty (there is no evidence to support this belief), so they plan to reward the wealthy via tax cuts and make no mention to the poor.

There was a time when the majority who were living in poverty were the elderly. This is no longer the case and it is due to Social Security. Conservatives want to privatize one of the most successful programs, which would benefit the wealthy while putting additional pressure on the solvency of this program.

People are not as interested in getting more money from the wealthy as they are in justice. To cite a couple of examples: 20 hedge fund managers made \$1 billion a year. Is any position worth that much? A person making \$50,000 a year would need to work 200 years to equal that amount.

In 2005, one out of every four large corporations took advantage of every loophole and subsequently paid no taxes on revenues of \$1 trillion.

Capitalism can be destructive. It encourages the idea that there is no limit to wealth and power and it is done executing the rights of those who own nothing.

President Kennedy said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

Larry R. Widdoss, Manor Township