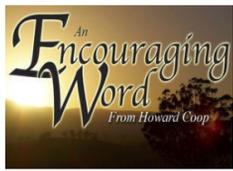


Belief guides action

By Howard Coop



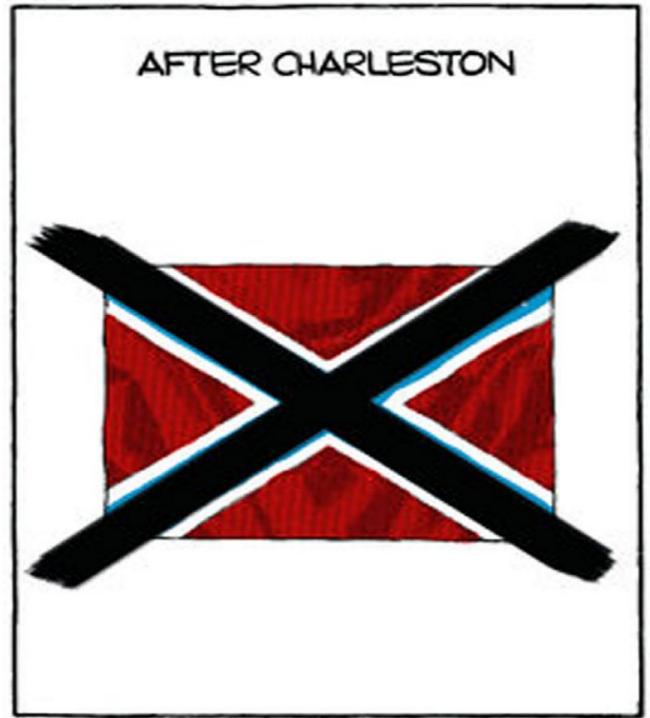
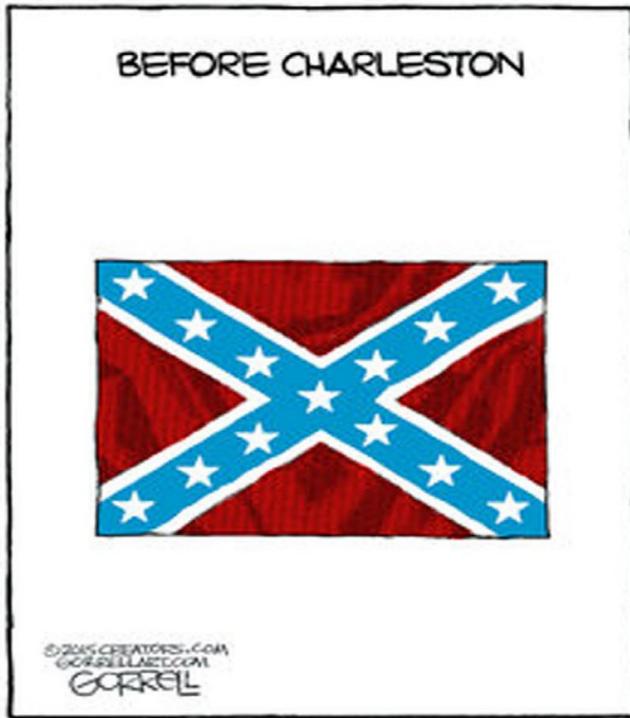
"Why did I do that?"

I pondered that question for a long time as I looked back, somewhat regretfully, upon something I had done. Then, after much serious reflection, I answered that question to my satisfaction with: "At the time, I believed that, under the circumstances I faced, I did what was the right thing for me to do; therefore, without hesitation, I did it."

"I believed..." Those were the important words, and so in that certain situation, I acted. Belief is the acceptance of or assent to something; therefore belief can be anything. So, everyone believes something, and as they believe, they act. Raymond Swing, a well-known journalist of the recent past, said, "So in my book action is the measure of belief." The nihilist believes in rejecting the customary beliefs of morality, the atheist believes there is no God, and the Christian believes there is a God. In everyday life, actions are the result of those beliefs.

In every situation one faces, belief is the one thing of major importance, for it is the key to action. If one believes a situation is important, one does what is necessary to meet that situation head on. On the other hand, if one believes a situation is insignificant, that situation is ignored. In every situation, belief is the determining factor for what one does. That is why T. Cecil Myers said, "We are all theologians in the sense that something is at the center of life for every one of us. That something determines whether life for us will be good or bad, full or empty, satisfying or defeating!" And that something at the center of life is belief. Nathaniel Olsen has been quoted as saying, "What you believe is what you are," and Ward Wheelock in THIS I BELIEVE wrote, "What a man believes and what he does about it---is that man."

Belief is vitally important. It is the determining factor in life. We do what we do because of it.



Think twice about where and when you use social media

By Jonathan Kleppinger

What are you doing right now? Are you on your phone? Should you be on your phone? Does anyone know you're on your phone?

You might think I'm warning you about government nanobots tracking your every move, but this is much more innocent and therefore much easier to forget about. I'm talking about the normal social-media actions you perform every day — texting in a group, liking a Facebook post, favoriting a tweet — and how you should be careful about when you perform them.

The inspiration is Pablo Sandoval, the Boston Red Sox third baseman who went to the clubhouse to relieve himself during a loss to the Atlanta Braves last week, pulled out his phone and hit "like" on two Instagram photos of a woman. Sandoval's activity — which was public — was noticed, and he confessed to the deed and accepted a



one-game suspension as punishment.

We're not all Major League Baseball players. And most of us won't be called out publicly for using social media when we're on the clock. But many of us have jobs in which this might be frowned upon, and all of us use our phones at times when it might be best not to broadcast that we're active in the mobile world. Below are a few things to keep in mind as you surf social media in your down time.

First, you have to remember that a lot of your activity can be public. It's not just your own posts, tweets and photos that can be seen by all your friends or followers or even by everyone. Depending on privacy settings, actions as simple as "liking" a

picture or photo or favoriting a tweet can be visible to other people, and they typically include a timestamp if not also a physical location.

"But I'm not committing a crime," you say. "Why should I care if someone knows I spent five seconds on my phone at 4:12 p.m.?" In many cases, it may not matter. But here are some questions to consider.

Does your company have a policy against cell-phone use on the clock, as Sandoval's does?

What about if you're using that precious bathroom-break time for social media, as Sandoval did?

Do you want the guy sitting at the next desk over to know you're sitting on the can with your iPhone out? Harmless knowledge? Maybe, but knowledge that we wouldn't want to broadcast.

What about when you can't sleep at 3 a.m.? Your friend's cousin may be glad you enjoyed her beach-landscape photo, but it may be a little awkward for her to know you were going through the album in the wee hours.

And what about the actual crime we all deny but are all guilty of: driving while distracted by our phones? How many people who are at your departure point or at your destination are going to be alerted to the fact that you're glancing between Twitter and the road?

In some of these instances, all we have to do is be mindful and avoid activity that will be visible to the public. I have no problem with scrolling Facebook in the lavatory, so long as you keep your hands and phone clean and you don't make those trips just to see the news feed. But I hope that remembering who will see if I text and drive or tweet and drive will keep me from engaging in the dangerous practice — not just make me try to be invisible while I do so.

It's important to be mindful of the content we're creating on social media, but it's also a good practice to think about the timing of our interactions that are visible in the mobile world — whether you're a celebrity athlete in the clubhouse bathroom or just a normal person driving home.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Commonsense Compassion in Juvenile Justice

By Nathan Goens
Children's Law Center

In an effort to raise awareness about issues that face our communities, I wanted to take a moment to introduce Senate Bill 200, which goes into full effect July 1, 2015. Parts of the Bill have already gone into effect around the Commonwealth. The aim of the Bill is to create a more effective and economically efficient Juvenile Justice System; one that truly places the best interest of the child as a paramount consideration, while continuing to hold the juvenile accountable for his or her actions, achieve better outcomes for youth and their families, and maintain public safety.

To achieve better outcomes for children introduced to Kentucky's Juvenile Justice System, Kentucky's Legislature is expanding the child's ability to access timely, quality treatment and supervision in the community, focusing the most intensive resources on serious offenders, implementing a set of graduated sanctions for youthful probation violators, and enhancing

data collection and oversight mechanisms to ensure policies are working. Instead of housing a child that has been truant from school in a secure juvenile detention facility, at the cost of nearly \$100,000 per bed per year to the taxpayer, this legislation makes diversion mandatory for all low-level offenses. Diversion is an instrument used to divert the child from the courts, as long as the child agrees to a set of terms or conditions. If the child violates the terms of the diversion agreement, he or she may face a court date. Diversion will be mandatory for all status offenses, which are offenses defined solely by the condition of being a child, like truancy or runaway. Additionally, diversion will be mandatory for misdemeanors, so long as the child is not a repeat offender, does not use a deadly weapon in the commission of the crime, does not commit a sexual offense, and has no prior diversions.

A vital part of SB 200 is the creation of Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) teams. These teams will work in concert with other governmental

agencies to create an enhanced case management system, which will allow the child to have access to the more effective and economically efficient community treatments that exist to address the child's unique needs. By reducing the costs of incarcerating those children that pose no real threat to society, more funds can be channeled to these effective community-based treatments. Although the goal of the Bill is to keep low-risk children out of the courts, court is still an option for those children that do not have success in the diversion programs.

The Legislation's effectiveness is advanced by the use of evidence-based screening and assessment tools to help guide treatment, supervision, and placement decisions for juveniles, both in the community and in out-of-home placement. This means that unless a method of addressing children in the juvenile justice system is showing favorable results for our children or state, that method will be phased out by the terms of the law. The continued implementation and improvement of the Bill will be

monitored by the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council, which will make recommendations for changes or improvements based on data.

Instead of locking up these lower-risk truant and runaways in the same juvenile jails, typically for the same number of days, as those juveniles charged with more serious crimes like murder, the Bill applies a more commonsensical and compassionate approach to juvenile justice. With the objective of lowering the cost and inefficiency that has plagued our Juvenile Justice System, while continuing to improve the situation of our children and families in the Commonwealth, this is a piece of legislation that all Kentuckians should be able to get behind. It protects, our families, our communities, and most importantly, our KIDS.

Nathan Goens is a Lincoln County High School graduate, a third-year law student at the University of Kentucky College of Law, and a law clerk for the Children's Law Center, a nonprofit located in Lexington, Kentucky.

LETTERS POLICY

The IJ accepts and encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. Only the writer's name and town will be printed. Letters may be limited to 350 words. The editor may edit for length. Mail your letter to The Interior Journal, 119 W. Main St., Stanford, KY 40484, or e-mail editor@theinteriorjournal.com.

THE INTERIOR JOURNAL Since 1860

The Interior Journal (USPS 929840-ISSN 87507609) is published weekly by Schurz Communications Inc., 119 W. Main St., Stanford, Ky. 40484. Telephone (606) 365-2104. Periodicals Postage Paid at Stanford, Ky. Annual membership rates are \$35 for Kentucky residents and \$52.50 for residents of other states. Online-only membership is \$18.75. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: The Interior Journal, 119 W. Main St., Stanford, Ky. 40484

LARRY HENSLEY
Publisher

ABIGAIL WHITEHOUSE
Editor

NANCY LEEDY
Sports Editor

GINA COOPER
Office Manager

BONIETA KOLASA
Production Manager

LEE SMITH
Advertising Consultant