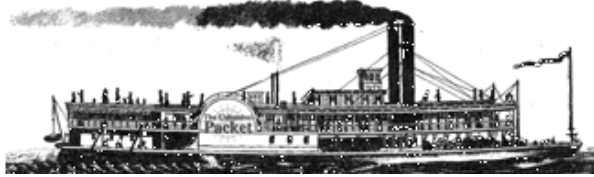




# The Columbus Packet


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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I am responding to the letter from Ms. Ann Cash. I would first like to say that as always, my prayers are with her and her family because I know how it feels to lose a loved one to violence. However, justice will not be served by keeping an innocent child in prison. Joey was killed by his wife, Kristi, who thought she stood to gain 300,000 dollars. She had numerous affairs and needed a way out of the marriage and to financially enhance her lifestyle. She planned the shooting and asked numerous people for a weapon. She asked her father for a weapon to shoot Joey, telling him he would "look good in a new Cadillac." She then asked her neighbor for a gun to kill a stray dog. Next, she asked her 13 year old little brother for a gun to kill that same stray dog. He reluctantly gave her a rifle he didn't think would work because he didn't want the stray dog to be shot, he loves animals. She then shot her husband with a gun and asked her brother to take the blame, saying he wouldn't get in trouble because of his tender age but she would get the death penalty. I'd also like to note that it hasn't been proven that the gun Tyler gave Kristi is the murder weapon, as the murder weapon was never found. And no, the fact that Tyler brought a weapon and Joey was shot does not make Tyler a murderer. It makes him a naive child. Tyler loved and trusted his sister, and after her pleas he made a statement that would affect the rest of his life. It was very wrong of Tyler to lie to the police about your son's murder, Ms. Cash. However he has paid enough for that lie. He has spent nearly four years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Tyler isn't cold hearted. He's the warmest, kindest, most forgiving person on this earth. He holds no animosity towards anyone. There should be a million more Tyler Edmonds in the world. He is a shining star in a very dreary world. I'm ecstatic that the Supreme Court has given him a second chance at being able to show the world his endearing spirit. And why did he not testify against Kristi? That's simple. He was never called to the stand.

Andrea White  
Scooba

Editor:

Young Democrats of Mississippi and young people statewide are outraged at the MS House's actions this week. In what was originally a progressive bill, the representatives amended H.B. 237 so that it now keeps a potential minimum wage increase out of the reach of high school and college students who work less than twenty hours a week. The measure did not pass in the House unnoticed!

ALL minimum wage employees should be able to enjoy a pay raise if the bill actually becomes a law; working, struggling, independent students and other part-time minimum wage earners should not be subject to the House's blatant discrimination and short-sidedness. On a more local note, I was extremely disappointed to see that Columbus' state representative, Jeff Smith (D), voted against the minimum wage increase, as well as a meager 3% teacher pay raise (H.B. 239), funding community colleges (H.B. 242), funding MS's eight public universities (H.B. 241), and the MS Adequate Education Program (H.B. 238). If you would like to see what bills our legislators have proposed, the exact wording of a bill, or how your representative voted, then check out either of the following websites:

<http://www.msdemocrats.net/HouseRollCallVote.htm> or <http://ms.gov/frameset.jsp?URL=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ls.state.ms.us>.

Irene Miller  
MUW Young Democrats of Mississippi

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Editor:

State Supreme Court wants a new trial for Tyler Edmonds only to waste taxpayers money. In a paragraph Jim Waide wrote to the Columbus Packet Jan. 11, 2007, "Tyler had absolutely no motive to kill Joey Fulgham other than to please Kristi". Well Waide, looks like you said a mouth-full. When Tyler Edmonds brought a gun to my son's house without him (Joey) knowing about it and then the very next morning my son is dead from a gun shot to the back of the head - that makes Tyler Edmonds a "murderer" in my book. Anything to please Kristi, Tyler Edmonds would do. You (Waide) know that and I know he would too - but I know with Kristi help pulling the trigger Tyler Edmonds cold-heartedly murdered my son - and went and spent his money. To you, Waide, thank you for showing so many people - Tyler Edmonds done this only to please Kristi. Also, if he is so innocent, why didn't he testify against Kristi?

Thank you,

Ann Cash  
Joey Fulgham's mother

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Editor:

ICS Coleman Head Start and America Reads Mississippi would like to thank our many supporters for making our Martin Luther King Jr. neighborhood march a success. We would like to personally thank the Columbus Police Department, the Columbus Fire Department and Sparky the Fire Dog, and Anthony Roland for donating his car for some of our children to ride on and also the parents who marched. We also want to thank New Home Building, Lowe's, and Military Hardware for providing the supplies needed to make our M.L.K. signs and Coldwell Banker Realty for providing American flags for our march.

America Reads MS members want to send a very special Thank You to the Coleman Head Start staff for their input and participation.

G. Harris  
K. Petty  
A. Summerville  
N. Williams

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Roger:

I am writing to you to let you know I haved got caught up on my Packets. I got Dec. 14, Dec. 21 and Dec. 28 all on Friday. The only one I've missed since I've subscribed Nov. 8th is the Dec. 7th issue. But I'm happy now because I really look forward to getting them. The only thing that could mke the Packet any better is if after every term of court you could put in the Packet how much time everyone got sentenced to in that term.

Keep up the good work you are doing and keep my Packet flowing. I just wanted to let you know I think you are doing a good job on your reporting. And I'm looking forward to my next issue.

Thanks again,

Stephen Criddle

*Two or three times last year we typed up all of the circuit court dispositions, hoping to run them in the Packet, but we never had the space. We put them on the Packet website, but it took hours to type them up and didn't seem worth the effort. But we might try again. Ed.*

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Editor:

## Gun Control, Radical Environmentalists and The End Justifies the Means:

In the 1950s and '60s people were aware of an ominous truth about Russian Communism, that is, "The end justifies the means," and his truth was looked upon as quite scary, almost unbelievable. But here we are today with gun controllers, radical environmentalists, leftist politicians and even modernist religious leaders espousing much of the same diatribe.

You have to look only at England and Australia to discover the folly of gun control. Murders up 7%, attempted murders up 13%. Increases were also reported in assaults, kidnappings and armed robberies, all in a period from 1997 to 1999. But the gun-control organizations keep on trucking with their junk polls and junk statistics. Of course there is the large matter of the Second Amendment to our Constitution guaranteeing us the right to bear arms, but who in the liberal media cares? "The end justifies the means."

The radical environmentalists would love to see us subject to the Kyoto Treaty, so we could probably succumb to the trillions the enactment of this treaty would cost the United States. Has anyone seriously wondered where the American Communist movement went after the fall of Communism in Russia? The eco-radicals have claimed for years that rising global temperatures will melt the ice packs, thus raising sea levels and killing everyone who lives near the beach. Scientists with the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research Project in Antarctica have published a paper that reveals that the snow-covered continent has cooled over the past 36 years—data gathered from weather stations across the continent, coupled with a separate set of measurements from the Dry Valleys, confirm each other and corroborate the continental cooling trend. But with radical environmentalists "the end justifies the means."

Looking at the anti-tobacco industries is an interesting view. First we criminalize a legal substance, supposedly to save the working poor from destroying themselves. Then with junk science and junk statistics we go to court and sue tobacco companies for billions which wind up in the hands of lawyers and politicians (who use their part for pork-barrel projects in their respective states in order to buy votes). The tobacco companies are not about to absorb this staggering load, so they naturally pass it along in the form of higher costs to the consumer, who has to pay 3 to 400% more for a pack of cigarettes which in many cases is the one small form of relaxation in life. Go figure. I would think that a man's intolerance of his neighbor is a thousand times more vicious than any second-hand smoke floating around a room.

The most sacred Christian holiday has just passed, the birth of Our Lord. Also, this is the occasion of Santa Claus. Santa Claus came to this country with the Dutch. They brought Santa Claus in the word form of Sinter Klaus when they settled the colony of New Amsterdam, now Manhattan. Sinter Klaus meant St. Nicholas, who was the bishop of Myra, in the province of Lycia, in Asia Minor, which is now the country of Turkey. St. Nicholas lived in A.D. 300. He was killed during the persecution of the Christians by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. While St. Nicholas was bishop he did wonderful things for the poor, such as going into their homes after dark and, with the parents' permission, putting coins into the children's stockings which hung over the fireplace and in the shoes by their beds of the needy kids while they slept. Thus, "Hung by the chimney with care."

One time Stalin (a gun controller) celebrated Christmas with his henchman, Beria. A servant was made to stand with lighted candles between his fingers and, under threat of death, not to move until the candle burned through, while Stalin and Beria drank and mocked the sacred holiday. And the words "the end justifies the means" whisper across the graves of the millions this tyrant killed. I'm sure all the Castro and Taliban apologists would view this with but a passing glance.

I think of the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, "And do thou O prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all other evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls."

So be it.

Ed Phillips

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Editor:

As I am sure you are aware, Conrad Hollis, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, was murdered on October 28, 2006 in front of his home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Conrad was an Iraq War Veteran who had returned from his tour of duty in December of 2005. He enrolled at the University of Alabama in the fall of 2006. He was so excited about being in Tuscaloosa and attending UA. He was a brave young man full of promise and dreams. His life was ended too soon, and the person(s) responsible for his death are still at large. In an effort to gain information, we have joined with CrimeStoppers to offer a reward for information that will lead to an arrest. We are asking that you help us in this endeavor. Please, honor this American hero by donating to: Trustmark National Bank, Conrad Hollis Reward / Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 431, Columbus MS 39703-0431.

All donations will be used for the reward. If, unfortunately, there is no reason to award the money, the donations will be added to the scholarship at UA that has already been set up in Conrad Hollis' honor. The Hollis family has insisted that their names not be on this account,

to ensure that all donators know that their money will only be used for said purposes.

Please make check payable to Trustmark National Bank and notate in the "memo" section Conrad Hollis Reward / Memorial Fund.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [springbowlin@yahoo.com](mailto:springbowlin@yahoo.com).

Thank-you for your generosity,

Spring Bowlin and The Friends of Conrad Hollis

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Editor:

Subject: Above the law?

Our jails a full of criminals for crimes ranging from theft to murder; some are in for short terms, some for life and some on death row. There are some criminals, though, who go unpunished and never serve any time or even get arrested.

Most of us know that the use of tax payer money to add fuel to a political campaign is a crime, yet many politicians in Washington do that very thing and never suffer for it. Some have tried to water down their actions by calling them "Pork Barrel Projects," but they're all nothing but terrible waste of taxpayer money, mainly for the sole purpose of buying more votes for the incumbent. Most of us know all about this but there are some out there who are still in the dark and half asleep who fall for it hook, line and sinker. I don't know why people keep falling for the same story over and over but as long as it works well enough for them to be reelected and not be punished for improperly using our tax money, the politicians will continue playing the same game. Some voters are just too apathetic to vote out the incumbent. What do you think?

Now, am I the only person in Lowndes Co. who sees what our District 5 Supervisor is trying to do? Is there anyone else who cares that he is wanting to put us deep in debt, mainly to impress those who are in the dark about the whole thing and gaining more votes for reelection? Surely he isn't as reckless with his family budget as he is trying to be with our taxes. I don't think the people of District 5 will fall for this—surely they know that someone (us) has to pay the interest on those bonds and return the principle at maturity. Now, for those of you who haven't figured this out yet, this whole bond thing is one of those "Pork Barrel" specials at the local level.

Some would say if District 5 reelects him, they will get what they deserve. Well, that might be true if only District 5 was effected by it, however, that's not the case—the whole county would have to suffer the consequences.

Is there anyone in District 5 who will step up to the plate? We need your help.

Raymond Gross  
Columbus

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Editor:

When I heard Col. Gerber was being confronted about his family's personal choice to place their children in a private school, I was outraged and I still am. Were the people criticizing the Colonel born ignorant, or did they have to work to get to the level of ignorance they're at?

The Colonel as much as put his, and almost every other base parent's concerns about the state of our city public school system, up in ten foot lights and what happens? He's attacked for his own personal way of dealing with a terrible situation we, the voters of this city, are responsible for, not him and his family.

I have to admit, I'm at the end of my rope in trying to understand anything about how our local politicians and bureaucrats think and act. I don't think I've ever been this deeply disappointed in the people we have elected to our local governments.

What does it take to convince both school boards, the city council, the mayor and the county board of supervisors the air base BRAC problem affects every person in the city of Columbus and Lowndes county? The clock started ticking before the last BRAC, which, in case the local geniuses in office haven't heard, WE ALMOST DIDN'T SURVIVE!!! The surveys and investigations that put us one slot from the bottom of the last BRAC list, together with the ones since then, will leave the next BRAC commission with no choice but to assume Columbus and Lowndes County don't care about keeping the base.

Are the members of the school boards, the city council, the mayor and the county board of supervisors so clueless, so ignorant, so mindless

of what will happen to this city and county if the airbase closes, they don't care, don't believe it will happen, or think they'll not be remembered for the absolute insanity of their contribution to the problem?

No tea leaves or Tarot cards are needed for this prediction; no more red hat ladies, no more country club, no more Pilgrimage, no more Main street Columbus, no more \$100,000 high school principal's salary, no more WCBI TV, Commercial Dispatch or Packet, no more Boys and Girl's Club, no more Baptist Memorial Hospital, no more city and almost no county.

One good thing might come from the base closing; the politicians and bureaucrats will finally be paid what they have been worth all these years--- nothing. Their names will go down in history for the most ignorant lack of action on the books in the entire state. Memorialized for all time, as well they should be. It's just unfortunate that everyone else has to suffer when that happens.

Thom Geiger  
Columbus

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Editor:

: I am writing to applaud and thank the Mississippi Supreme Court for delivering justice and overturning the conviction of Tyler Edmonds. Many of you readers have children, and I'm sure you can't imagine what it's like to see your thirteen year old child ripped from your arms and taken into the penal system for a crime he didn't commit like Tyler's mother had to do. However, the tide has begun to turn and we who love and support him have just begun our fight for justice. While the Mississippi Supreme Court's ruling is incredibly uplifting, Tyler is still in prison for the time being. I'm sure that the DA's office will once again waste hard earned tax payers money in trying Tyler Edmond's for murder once again.

As previously reported, Tyler's first trial cost nearly 40,000 dollars. Half of which was spent on an un-certified state "expert" who is one of the several reasons why Tyler's conviction was overturned. It has cost the tax payers nearly 33,000 dollars since convicted to keep Tyler warehoused. Tyler Edmonds is not a heartless killer. He was a 13-year-old child who loved and trusted his sister enough to confess to a crime when she asked him to so he wouldn't have to see her get the death penalty. Now he is a 17 year old young man who gives inspiration to thousands of those all over the world who believes in him. No doubt Patricia Faver and Frank Clark will try this case again even though the real murderer is sitting on death row. After all, Faver was nicknamed "ice queen" for the way she treated this child. Yes, they got the jury to find him guilty.

The Mississippi Supreme Court said the ways in which they did this was unconstitutional. Any reasonable jury who hears all evidence will undoubtedly acquit him. I believe it's time they stop wasting the tax payer's money on a case that many people don't even want to see tried again.

Andrea White  
Scooba

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Editor:

I'd like to comment in regards to the Fulgham family, Tyler Edmonds appeal and Representative George Flaggs Bill. First to the Fulgham family, I am personally sorry for the loss of your beloved Joey. No family should endure such a tragedy. My prayers are with you all.

Calling this judicial process in regards to Tyler Edmonds a charade is a great choice of words that you Kim Fulgham used in another newspaper, but I don't agree with your definition behind it. I am one person that does know the facts of this case and the main fact is Tyler is innocent. The gun was never found to prove two fingers were on the trigger nor was it ever investigated to see if gun shot residue or blood was on his clothing. The only physical evidence linking Tyler is a false confession the police allowed his sister to coerce him into. Tyler even passed a lie detector test given after his recantation stating Kristi begged him to take the blame. He passed. Kristi claiming all along Tyler did it alone, failed.

As to Judge Diaz, I commend that Justice as well as the others for finally seeing that Tyler's trial was nothing but a freak show. These justices deal with attorneys all the time. If any of them were to recuse themselves each time an appeal came through, no one would be left. It isn't a matter of whom you know and ethics, it's a matter of law when an appeal is handed down.

Law isn't about revenge nor is it about your feelings being hurt. This appeal ruling cited what Constitutional Rights were violated at Tyler's trial. Our system is to be fair and just, not biased or predigest just because you want a boy behind bars. To name a few if you read the ruling

is Dr. Haynes outrageous testimony; Danny Edmonds lack of testimony; Tyler's Miranda Rights and bail; The Montel Williams Show Tape and Kristi's pleading of the 5th Amendment for example.

I am sorry but I beg to differ that the Fulgham family has remained quiet behind the scenes. I have read many letters and stories quoting you folks bashing Tyler for the past three years. Clark and Favor are now advertising that and advertising is not sitting quietly behind unnoticed.

I also commend Representative Flagg for seeing children for what they are. Children are the most rehabilitatable in our society and should be never be treated as adults in our legal system. I support his Bill, as does [justiceforjuveniles.org](http://www.justiceforjuveniles.org). The Mississippi Coalition For the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse will be holding a rally with over 200 youth attending in support of juvenile justice reform in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Chairman George Flagg Jr. and Senator John Horhn are confirmed speakers. They will join other lawmakers and over 30 child advocacy organizations from across the state to rally in support of 2007 legislation that closes the pipeline leading Mississippi's children from the schoolhouse to the jailhouse. The rally will be held Monday Jan. 15th, 2007 from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Mississippi State Capitol.

I thank the Supreme Court for finally applying the rule of law that should have been done at Tyler's trial. It would have saved the taxpayers a lot of money and an innocent boy unnecessary warehousing. It's those that have not sat idly by that will create reform for the Mississippi children. I for one am in for the long haul and will keep fighting for Tyler's freedom until the day he finally comes home.

Cari Barichello, Paralegal  
Administrator of [www.justiceforjuveniles.org](http://www.justiceforjuveniles.org)

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