



Coming Monday: Columnist Kathleen Parker wonders if democracy and political discourse in America has really devolved to the point we're debating whether it's better to eat a dog or strap a dog in a carrier to the roof of a car.

Our View

At The Community Trust, it's all about community

When it comes to enhancing the quality of life in Central Virginia, working to better the daily lives of our most vulnerable neighbors and constructing a solid foundation for the future, the two most important organizations are the United Way of Central Virginia and The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust.

Just about everyone, we'll venture to guess, has heard of the United Way through various community fundraising events and workplace pledge drives. But The Community Trust is an organization many folks have likely never heard of, or if they have, know little of the vital work it does in Central Virginia.

The United Way focuses on the day-to-day needs

of human services groups; The Community Trust creates opportunities for donors and benefactors to meet community needs for generations to come.

The Trust, which is marking its 40th anniversary through 2012, has more than \$29 million in assets. And it's been accumulated one dollar at a time.

Recently, a local high school graduate now living in Wisconsin made a donation to the general fund in honor of a teacher who impacted his life. A retired utility worker with no relatives set up a \$900,000 trust within The Community Trust to benefit Central Virginia. A man who had just lost his job donated \$50 after realizing there were many people in far worse shape than he in his own community.

Each of those stories illustrates how an individual could make use of The Community Trust to make an impact on the lives of future Central Virginians, long after he's passed from this Earth.

Through wise investments, The Trust is able to disperse millions of dollars in the community; in 2011, it gave out \$1.4 million in grants. Those dollars went to a wide variety of organizations, from the Free

Clinic of Central Virginia to Daily Bread, from the Academy of Fine Arts to the Coalition for HIV Awareness and Prevention.

It's difficult to overstate the importance of The Community Trust in Central Virginia. As Executive Director Stuart Fauber writes in today's paper, it's how we can continue doing good in our community for generations to come. We're making tomorrow better today.

The News & Advance

Terry H. Jamerson
Joseph P. Stinnett
J. Logan Anderson

Publisher
Managing Editor
Opinion Page Editor

United States Constitution, Amendment 1:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievance.

'Hopefully' fought the law

The bad news came in a tweet. "Hopefully, you will appreciate this style update ... We now support modern usage of hopefully: it's hoped, we hope."

The message couldn't have upset the grammar police more had The Associated Press's Stylebook instead said that we now find starting a sentence with "me and him" or describing something as "very unique" acceptable.

My immediate reaction: You can have "we hope" when you pry it from my cold, dead hands.

Wrong is wrong, I grumped. Hopefully means in a hopeful way, as in, he hopefully began his audition. Not, we hope, as in, hopefully the Nats will win the World Series.

Is using hopefully wrong a modern phenomenon? Undeniably. So is hearing little children spout words that once would have earned a mouthful of soap. Hearing something frequently doesn't make it right.

I know, I know, far more important changes take place in society every day. But I'm a purist, if not a word prude, an English major. Like a Marine, once an English major, always an English major. Most people don't keep dictionaries in almost every room of their home. Most people lead happy, productive lives misusing hopefully, in the modern way.

The AP Stylebook calls itself the journalist's bible, and it's the law in matters of spelling, word usage and punctuation for most newspapers and many other publications. If it says to spell out whole numbers below 10 and figures for 10 and above, journalists do. In March 2011, the stylebook decreed that henceforth we would omit the hyphen in email — but keep it in e-commerce and e-book. That was a big day.

But hopefully? Stylebook editors tried to hold the line, reminding writers and editors in a 2009 tweet: "'Hopefully' means in a hopeful manner. Do not use it to mean it is hoped, let us hope or we hope."

That fine distinction vanished this week. Several major dictionaries have acknowledged the new usage, and the AP decided it was time.

My "New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary" — in the den on the first floor — says hopefully came into use in the 1600s, but the modern usage that "some find erroneous" popped up between 1900 and 1929. Aha, something else to blame on the 20th century.

When The Washington Post ran a story about the stylebook's capitulation, more than 600 readers commented online. Many were relieved that they can stop worrying about the silly rule. Others were appalled that the grammar scofflaws have won. Again.

To accept the modern hopefully is to be a clear-eyed realist. I know from personal experience, teaching writing to college students and adults, that no single topic prompts more bewilderment than the rule on hopefully — none, that is, except not relying on spell check.

Speaking of which, the AP's surrender on hopefully came just days after the University of North Carolina's School of Journalism and Mass Communication announced it was scrapping the requirement that students pass a spelling test before graduation. Starting this fall, the school will test grammar skills and word usage, but not spelling.

Everybody has and uses spell check, the reasoning goes. Yes, but spell check will break your heart.

My copy of "The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage" — in my home office on the third floor — warns, "In the sense of 'let us hope,' this adverb inflames passions," because many writers and teachers hew to traditional usage.

"So writers and editors unwilling to irritate readers would be wise to write 'they hope' or 'with luck.' With luck, writers and editors will avoid wooden alternatives like 'it is hoped' or 'one hopes,'" the Times's manual advises.

Columnist Clyde Haberman, in his "The Day" blog on the Times site, wrote that Philip B. Corbett, the paper's associate managing editor for standards, said there will be no change in policy regarding hopefully for now.

It's up to each of us to be our own word standards editors. The AP isn't ordering anyone to use hopefully in the modern way. With luck, we can carry on. Let us hope.



Marsha Mercer

Mercer writes from Washington. Email her at marsha.mercer@yahoo.com. © 2012 Marsha Mercer. All rights reserved.

The Forum

The many 800-pound gorillas in the room

When we see our local government anguish over budgets, services and taxes, there likely are bigger issues at work. Here are some examples:

- » No question that services often help a city compete for business, taxpayers, improve quality of life, and make it more of a place we want to be. After all, history seems to indicate the better people look after one another, the more success their society achieves.
- » No question this prolonged recession has reduced the growth of government revenues and thus stressed services.
- » No question that our city is now receiving a lower percentage of funding from federal and state governments that further stresses our locale.
- » No question that since interest rates are low, governments also have to put more dollars aside to cover future employee pensions and benefits, which, by the way is a pretty big number.
- » And now today, those who receive government benefits and have government jobs are more than the number who don't. It's the highest percentage in our American history.

It just seems to me that while government services have indeed helped bolster and improve our culture, there is a tipping point where the formula being used can no longer be sustained. For instance, how much of Gross National Product can our governments be? How much do we want them to be and why? Can we really continue to afford additional employees who provide good services but whose funding comes from a lower percentage of workers? Those additional employees come with substantial pensions the private sector has already deemed not affordable or sustainable. (In difficult financial times, the private sector



makes the hard decisions to eliminate jobs, freeze hiring and reduce the income and benefits of their employees in order to keep the doors open. Most understand and few complain. I would hope that more people would understand that in the public process as well.) Do we need to re-evaluate those government employee pensions and benefits? Haven't Greece, Spain and Italy now realized all of this in their own situations?

Isn't it time for some serious and smart people to help us learn and identify the sustainable size of "our government?" To help us determine an optimum range where the size of government secures our culture and enables it to compete favorably in this fast changing world?

One thing seems to be certain, we can't sustain getting bigger and having a smaller percentage pay for it, regardless of the benefit to ourselves. The culture we know relies on the "givers" being a higher percentage than the "receivers."

BILLY MCBRATNEY
Lynchburg

No votes for incumbents
The News & Advance's

April 19 editorial characterized the recent state budget snafu as "petty partisan bickering." I think that's being generous. A better term would be "shameful" or "utterly unprofessional" or "simply unacceptable."

When the same sort of bickering took place in Washington, D.C., over the federal budget, many voters, including this one, were disgusted with Congress. As a result of that political malpractice on Capitol Hill, I pledged to myself that I would not vote for the incumbents in the next election for congressional representatives.

Now that our state representatives have shown themselves equally as irresponsible as their federal counterparts, I'm expanding my pledge: I promise not to vote for the incumbents in the next statewide elections.

TOM BROWN
Lynchburg

Campbell tax rates

The News & Advance recently published an article about the Campbell County Board of Supervisors promoting tax rate increases for real estate tax and personal property tax and proposing two new taxes — a meals tax

and a lodging tax — to generate additional revenue to cover a budget increase for fiscal year 2013. A large portion of the increase is due more funding required by the county's school system.

It would be impractical for the supervisors to burden taxpayers with a real estate tax increase since real estate has experienced a drop in market value. And most of that is now below the county's current assessed value.

The problem with considering two new tax generators is once they are implemented, the tax rate is never fixed and will continually increase, as more tax revenue is needed.

Additionally, the Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority has proposed to increase water and sewer rates. Its rates are significantly higher than any other municipal water system in the Central Virginia area.

Instead of burdening Campbell residents with more taxes and fees, perhaps county officials should identify ways to operate more efficiently beginning with the county's school system.

JOHN WYDNER
Lynchburg

Submitting a letter:

Letters must include the writer's name, signature, address and a daytime phone number. Concise letters — 250 words or fewer — on topics of local interest will receive first consideration for publication. All letters are subject to editing for language and clarity. **Send letters to:** Letters to the Editor, The News & Advance, Box 10129, Lynchburg, VA 24506; **fax to:** (434) 385-5538; or **submit them via email to:** letters@newsadvance.com.

Voice your opinion online

Want to comment on the editorial and letters to the editor? Go to www.newsadvance.com and click on Opinion

America isn't Europe

BY EZRA KLEIN

I'm always surprised, in my conversations with conservatives, how often they distill the deficit down to a simple question: Do you really want the United States to go the way of Europe?

Interestingly, I'm now hearing it from liberals, too. Robert Borosage, director of the Campaign for America's Future, warns, "Take a good look at Europe — bloody riots in Athens and Madrid, rising unemployment, spreading poverty and suicide, and a deepening recession — because the current American elite consensus bizarrely wants to drive America down that same path."

The conservative argument is that unchecked deficits could lead to a bond-market crisis, much like the one in Greece. The liberal argument is that austerity could lead to riots, as it has in Greece. Both arguments, I think, miss just how much trouble Europe is in — and how much better shape we're in.

But first, it's worth saying that "Europe" looks very different depending on where you live. Across the continent, unemployment is 10.1 percent. But Germany has a 5.7 percent unemployment rate. Britain has an 8.3 percent rate. In France, it's 10 percent. Greece — which is very small — has a 21 percent unemployment rate.

If you live in Nevada, which has a 12.3 percent unemployment rate, your state is worse off than most of Europe. If you live in Virginia, which has a 5.7 percent unemployment rate, you live in a state that's better off than most of Europe. So in terms of the labor market, quite a few Americans already live in Europe, or worse.

What separates Europe from America isn't the economic pain of the average European. It's the fact that investors aren't confident the euro zone will exist in 10 years.

As recently as 2006, every country in the euro zone could fund itself on the bond market, and for cheap. Greece was paying the same rates as Germany. That is to say, the market thought Greece was as safe a bet as Germany. Today, Greece pretty much can't fund itself, and Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy are facing challenges, to say the least. Germany, however, can fund itself just fine. The market is now pricing the euro-zone countries individually rather than collectively.

And that's the key: The market has lost faith in the euro zone as a single entity.

They thought wrong and have now come to see the underlying structure — a currency union without a fiscal union, a committed central bank or economic parity among the members — as inherently flawed and perhaps unsalvageable. The euro zone doesn't have a debt problem. It has a continued-survival problem.

America's got a debt problem. But it's been around for hundreds of years. Our political system, for all its inanities and disappointments, is fairly well understood and quite widely trusted. The euro zone has been around only since 1999, and Greece didn't join until 2001. There's nothing obvious that could force a rethinking of America as a continuing, surviving enterprise in the way that we've seen in Europe.

The closest thing is Congress defaulting on the debt, but even that would be seen as a sort of temporary insanity — albeit one with long-term consequences for our borrowing costs — rather than evidence that the republic itself was a bad idea and might come apart.

Klein is a Washington Post columnist.



The distribution committee of The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust is hard at work, poring over funding applications from various nonprofits throughout Central Virginia. The trust, with assets of about \$29 million, is marking its 40th anniversary this year; \$1.4 million was distributed in 2011.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREATER LYNCHBURG COMMUNITY TRUST

Serving Central Virginia, in good times and in bad

One of our most valuable resources in Central Virginia is our area's community foundation, The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust.

The Community Trust was established in 1972 as an endowment fund to enhance the quality of life in Central Virginia "forever." The year 2012 marks the organization's 40th year serving the cities of Lynchburg and Bedford and the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell. The anniversary year celebration was recently launched at the organization's 40th anniversary luncheon at Lynchburg College. Bill Quillian, the first executive director, was honored for his steadfast and long-term promotion of philanthropy in our community. The year-long celebration will culminate with a 40th anniversary dinner at the James River Conference Center on Oct. 19 with Leland Melvin as the keynote speaker.

The community foundation concept is relatively simple. Residents of Central Virginia make gifts, anywhere from \$25 to several million dollars, to The Community Trust. These gifts are to help others, an opportunity to "give back" or to "pay forward." These gifts form the community's endowment fund, currently valued at \$29 million.

Wow! That's a lot of money! This demonstrates what a community of people can do if they pool their resources. Each year, the income earned on the endowment fund (currently calculated at 5 percent) is distributed back into the community by the trust's distribution committee. If you get your calculator out, you will see that more than \$1.4 million is paid out annually to address basic human needs, health issues, education and the arts and humanities in Central Virginia.

This is "our community foundation." Because it is an accumulation of gifts made by our residents over the course of 40 years, it belongs to us, and it is managed by leading residents from Lynchburg, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell. And, because it is an endowment fund, it will last forever. Because The Community Trust uses a 12-quarter trailing market value to calculate the 5 percent payout each year, the organization is able to provide funding for essential programs through good times and bad, when the market is up and when it is down.

It is a stable source of funding that can be counted on from year to year. The Community Trust provides money to charities and programs when it is needed most — during periods of economic instability. When money for charities and programs are being cut back, The Community Trust is here to help. The distribution committee is the heart of The Community Trust. The committee reviews grant applications from the community in the fall (Sept. 15 deadline) and in the spring (March 15 deadline). The committee is knowledgeable about needs in the community and diligently reviews applications and makes on-site visits to ensure that grants are addressing community needs in an effective



Former Randolph-Macon Woman's College president William Quillian Jr. (center) was the trust's first executive director. Earlier this year, he received the trust's philanthropy award; from the left are Kenneth S. White, Margaret W. Quillian, Quillian, William E. Gayle and Stuart Fauber.

The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust ... What You Should Know

Be there for the Central Virginia community ... now and in the future.

- » **Distributed** \$1.4 million in grants in Central Virginia in 2011
- » **Funded** 103 agencies in 2011
- » **Serves** Lynchburg, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell
- » **Market Value** of \$29 million as of March 1, 2012
- » **83 percent** of gifts are smaller gifts less than \$500
- » **Operating expenses** are generally less than 1 percent
- » **An endowment fund** where distribution of income lasts "forever"



How can I give back to the community through the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust?

- » Write a check to GLCT, 101 Paulette Circle, Suite B, Lynchburg, VA 24502
- » Make a gift on the GLCT website at www.lynchburgtrust.org
- » Make a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one
- » Establish a named fund with a minimum of \$10,000
- » Make a gift of stock, real estate or other asset
- » Make a deferred gift with income retained by the donor through a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust
- » Name GLCT in your will, life insurance policy or your obituary

manner. Current members of the distribution committee are chairman Gus Petticolos, John Alford Jr., MaryJane Dolan, Ernie Guill, Hank Hubbard, Ellen Nygaard, Jim Richards, Marc Schewel and Massie Ware.

The Community Trust made 103 grants to worthwhile causes during 2011. The Boys & Girls Club received \$8,500 to establish and support the Torch Club and Keystone Club Program; CASA of Central Virginia received \$9,600 to support pre-service training, induction, and recognition of Court Appointed Special Advocates; Free Clinic of Central Virginia received \$16,000 to support general dentistry and oral surgery clinics; Meals on Wheels received \$9,000 to provide nutritional assistance for expanded service areas; Rebuilding Together in Amherst, Nelson and Lynchburg received \$15,000 to purchase materials for home repair projects; Lynchburg Humane Society received \$6,700 to support the No Kill Mission; and Interfaith Outreach received \$13,300 to support the Emergency Assistance Program.

In addition, other grants made this past year included \$7,500 to the Altavista YMCA to support the purchase of a much needed bus for childcare services; \$13,000 in college scholar-

ships through The Appomattox County Education Foundation; \$7,500 to Lake Christian Ministries to purchase food for the needy in Bedford County; and \$2,500 to the Amherst County Public Schools Education Foundation to purchase materials for Leadership Academies at two Amherst County schools.

During The Community Trust's 40th anniversary celebration this year, making a gift to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust is a wonderful way to give back to the community. By doing so, you are making an investment in Central Virginia, you are making a gift that lasts forever and you can be assured that your gift is well-managed by an organization whose operating expenses are generally less than 1 percent. Your gift will make a difference in Central Virginia.

Gifts may be mailed to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, 101 Paulette Circle, Suite B, Lynchburg, VA 24502; or on our website at www.LynchburgTrust.org. Additional information concerning the establishment of a named fund or a planned gift or bequest may also be found at our website.

Fauber, the retired regional president of SunTrust Bank, is executive director The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust. He wrote this commentary for The News & Advance.