

Letters

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only crime was being born in the wrong country at the wrong time?

This week we were told by the president that he is spying on American citizens in defiance of the Constitution. The Fourth Amendment clearly states: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

What kind of a nation do we live in when the President feels he is above the Constitution?

What kind of a nation imprisons its own people in defiance of its own laws, uses torture on people from other nations, maintains secret prisons around the world, starves innocent people in other nations, makes war as a matter of choice, refuses to participate in a court designed to punish war criminals, refuses to allow the Red Cross access to its prison camps, castigates and attacks anyone who questions its methods, tactics, and practices?

Evil will flourish as long as good people do nothing.

Is this what Jamestowners want? If not, what have you done about it?

**Joseph Clifford,
Jamestown**

**Questions about
'beautiful building'**

Despite frantic pleas from Clinton Avenue residents, the industrial development at the bottom of our street is underway.

Readers may recall that this development was recently approved by the Jamestown Planning Commission. At the time of review, the issue was use. The developer is Jack's Electric. The request was to construct a formidable commercial-industrial complex within a residential neighborhood.

The town's comprehensive plan designates this location at the end of Clinton Avenue as light/limited commercial. This is meant to enable a smooth transition of compatible uses from Clinton to Narragansett Avenue, the island's commercial core.

The justifiable contention of the community centered on Jack Electric's request to push the land-use code beyond its legal limit at this location through variance and special-use requests. A dizzying array of site plans was put before the Planning Commission. While different, each depicted an active site with a huge multi-story building with large garage doors for large trucks. The services to be provided from this large complex have never been clearly defined.

Keep in mind, the word "large" is in the context of our small-scale residential community. Had the complex been sited in a more suitable or properly zoned area or on the developer's own non-Clinton Avenue property, there probably would not be a problem. Regardless, what is clear is that the scale is meant to accommodate the developer's long-term, but not clearly defined, plans. Turning a deaf ear to Clinton Avenue resident con-

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Another year flashed by — or did it?



**You can't
beat a
system
you can't
understand**

By Sam Bari

Things to discover, see, break, and more diapers and carpets to soil than they ever thought possible. They're thinking — Where did the time go?

Another example, for those who really enjoy instant non-gratification, is racing sailboats. If you're in a race and not sailing on the lead boat, time can appear to come to a stop. Sailboat racing is the only sport where you can lose for hours, and if the race involves crossing an ocean, you can lose for days. You can feel as if you are losing for eternity. At times like this, time can take a real snooze.

Most women find that nine months of pregnancy seems to stretch time disproportionately to other slow periods in their lives. Many wonder why elephant suicides are not more common since their gestation period is three years. And then they deliver a 300 pound baby.

We also have those periods when time is in a hurry, like when your children are in their formative years. You know, after potty training, up until about 11 years old. This is that part of their life when they develop into real people who can walk, talk, and make you laugh and have fun. They are a joy. This is when time flies by faster than a Paris Hilton romance.

Unfortunately, this period of parental bliss comes to an abrupt halt when you wake up one morning to find your model child missing. He or she has been replaced by a total stranger who has the charm of Godzilla. "Who are you?" you ask. "I'm a teenager," the person replies. The teenager claims to love you, but doesn't like you, your family, or anything you like to do, eat, listen to, or watch. You have no idea where it came from, or how it got into your house, although it answers to the same name as your child, and looks somewhat similar in a weird way. This is when time almost comes to a stop — for about six years. Then, just as quickly as the teenager showed up, it disappears, and your child returns, all grown up, and time picks up speed again.

Then you go through the kids in college years. This is when your name is changed into one long word: "Dadgimmemoney." These are speedy years if you measure them by the length of time needed to drain your wallet. But they are unbelievably slow if you measure them by the number of times your wallet is drained.

The children's wedding years follow these exciting times, and they go by with extreme slowness, although, they are quick to turn you into a grandparent. Then it all starts over again. I think you get the idea.

All of the aforementioned goes to show you that time flies while we walk. And as we reflect on the past year, at least for most of us, it's easy to see that time can fly really fast. So make good use of it. Time cannot be replaced. It's an important part of that system we just can't understand.

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