



---

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051019/OPINION10/510190357/1111>

---

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Our Readers' Views

---

10/19/2005

### **Mankind cannot afford to ignore global warming**

Scientific data has shown that mankind is directly affecting the Earth's climate. Our government is negligent in not addressing this issue and not informing the public of the danger if we continue to ignore it.

If the scientists are wrong, we have nothing to lose and will gain a stronger economy, cleaner environment and no longer need to get involved in foreign disputes with unstable countries.

If the scientists are right and we continue to ignore warning signs, then mankind has everything to lose. I do not want to be responsible for the death, destruction and despair that future generations will have to endure. Everyone on this planet has the responsibility to ensure that future generations inherit an Earth that is still intact and healthy.

Deborah S. Grant, Claymont

### **Progress always encounters ups and downs along way**

Enough of the pessimism that abounds in today's world. The "woe is me" column by Ron Williams took the cake on Sunday. When it is so easy to be negative and offer no solutions, let me put his column in a positive light.

The war in Afghanistan was necessary. War in Iraq was debatable. But both freed millions of people from tyrannical regimes.

Mortgage interest rates have climbed, but are ridiculously low when compared to 20 years ago. Home ownership was at an all-time high, with about 70 percent of Americans owning their own homes.

The state of business is always changing. They open and close. Twenty years ago, no one had heard of cell phones, yet today they are ubiquitous throughout the world. Just because one business downsizes doesn't mean others won't grow and develop new products and services.

Rather than fret about increased cost of fuel, let's focus on the increased standard of living we have experienced over the past 50 years that better enables us to handle such costs. Disposable income is far greater today than it was 30 years ago.

Downgrading General Motors' debt is due to consumer choice of other vehicles. While GM chose to make larger, inefficient vehicles, competitors focused on better quality, fuel-efficient ones. The results speak for themselves.

The world has its ups and downs. We might be hitting a slight trough but the forward path of progress continues.

John H. Trochimowicz, Smyrna

**Restriction on drug sales forces father to choose**

This new over-the-counter drug law is ridiculous. I was forced to choose cold remedies for myself or my 2-year-old because I could only buy one item at BJ's in New Castle.

I have a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old. They will get colds. They give them to me too.

I guess this will lead to more prescriptions and visits to doctors. If I have to waste time at the pharmacy while they learn the features of OTC remedies -- and I cannot even buy what I need in one trip -- I might as well go to the doctor and ask for a prescription.

How about reforming the law enough to let families survive the cold and flu season?

Harold Flouhouse, Newark

**Test after refresher course won't get rid of bad drivers**

Defensive driving courses should be required of all drivers, say every five years. I take a course every three years as a refresher and to get a discount on my insurance. However, I disagree with having to take a test. Not all folks are good test takers.

There will be people who are poor test takers but good drivers who will lose their licenses even though they hadn't broken any laws. Good test takers who are aggressive, reckless drivers would still be on the road.

I believe that most dangerous drivers are not ignorant of the rules of the road, they just don't care.

Defensive driving courses are meant to be a reminder of good practices and an opportunity to hear about the newest traffic laws. The courses only benefit those who care about being safe drivers. Therefore, a test would be counterproductive.

Mike Cannatelli, New Castle

**Football is big contributor to university's bottom line**

The highly paid University of Delaware president snubs his nose at a million-dollar donor -- which is what the football program has been year in and year out. It is high time the trustees step in and make some needed changes.

Playing a home game in Richmond, Va., because of unplayable conditions at Tubby Raymond Field is a black eye for this university. It cannot be laid at Coach K.C. Keeler's feet. Keeler bleeds blue, but President David Roselle has shown that he bleeds green -- in dollar bills.

Roselle's quote from an Oct. 15 article, "If we're guilty of anything it's that we didn't know it was going to happen," is not entirely accurate.

It should be: "If I am guilty of anything, it was not listening to experts." He certainly could not have seen any green turf, or much of it, long before the first game. This has been a problem since the early 1990s. It should not have been a shock.

What is a shock is the lack of consideration for the players and fans (the million-dollar donors). There does not appear that much effort went into playing that game closer to home (maybe Roselle thought it would cost him too much).

In addition, this disgrace might have an ill effect on recruiting because of UD's lack of state-of-the-art facilities. I hope Ruly Carpenter can help us out of this quagmire.

Wayne Leathem, Lewes

## **New charter school will ground teens in fundamentals of changing economy**

Delaware is experiencing changes in its economic infrastructure. MBNA's sale to Bank of America, outsourcing and increases in gas and heating fuel are among the best examples of the pendulum shifts that accompany the free market.

While some changes are due to natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, oil refining running at 98 percent of production capability, or mergers commonplace in industry, many adults don't understand the complexity of such events. And if adults lack the knowledge to digest such trends, it's a certainty that our high school population doesn't either.

This need for knowledge is one of the reasons Pencader Business & Finance Charter High School was formed. Teenagers are quick to state that what they're learning has no relevance on their day-to-day lives. Yet students are very interested in why gas prices go up and down, the skills needed to acquire and keep a job, and how to plan for their future.

Furthermore, in Delaware young people need to understand the legal and economic system that includes Chancery Court, the relationship between the taxes that corporations pay and our state's fiscal stability.

Pencader Charter also will offer students a grounding in what types of careers they want vs. what indicators show will be viable options when they leave high school. Young people understand that market forces affect their lives. For many students, this will mean acquiring knowledge to enter college without remedial courses, or entering the workplace full time with the business etiquette and work ethic to contribute to an employer's bottom line.

Leaders in both political parties, labor and management understand that the United States is shifting from a manufacturing economy to one steeped in information, skilled trades, service and communication. This societal shift is among the reasons the Pencader Charter High School board of directors asked the Delaware Department of Education for a charter, which was granted in April. The school will open next August at a New Castle location. Additional information can be found at [www.pencadercharter.org](http://www.pencadercharter.org).

Dave Jones, School leader, Pencader Business & Finance Charter High School, Bear

---

Copyright © 2005, The News Journal. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (updated 10/3/2005)