

# Like cat abuse, rodeo cruel to animals

I've heard many people say not much has been mentioned about the upcoming rodeo in LaPorte. It's due to the heels of the horrendous headlines in The News-Dispatch about the cat tortured here in our town. Watching a rodeo isn't much easier than seeing the pictures on the front page of Hope's back that was burned.

Rodeos are cruel. All rodeos treat non-human animals as things, a means to an end for entertainment through oppression and cruelty. Apparently, the oppression and cruelty of Hope, the cat, was entertainment for some individuals in Michigan City as well.

As long as animals are considered expendable by humans, they will continue to be treated cruelly. If you know anyone who intends on going to the rodeo, please make sure they know the facts and ask them to no longer attend this brutal "sport." If you are a decisionmaker at a company or organization that sponsors this rodeo, please reconsider your support of animal exploitation and cruelty.

A man campaigning for mayor of Michigan City a few years ago said he would start a task force to look into the dog fighting problem in our town. I remember calling in to a television show and asking the newly elected mayor how the situation was coming with the task force. If I recall correctly, the new mayor said participants in dog fighting are hard to track down. I haven't heard anything further about the task force or its success (or lack thereof).

Maybe this is why so much animal cruelty can be found in Michigan City, both sanctioned and unsanctioned. The person who can truly put an end to it is at the top, and it's my opinion he's too busy worrying about how much money Michigan City has in its wallet to be bothered with such trivial pursuits as ending animal cruelty and exploitation. I think their wallets are the only things that promoters of dog fighting worry about, too.

*Andrea Will  
Michigan City*

## Teachers didn't enjoy cartoon

The teachers are not laughing at the T-shirt car-

## ANVIL CHORUS letters to the editor

▶ We prefer letters of no more than 250 words, and letters may be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. Please include home and work telephone numbers for verification. The writer's full name and hometown are published with each letter.

▶ Send letters to Anvil Chorus, The News-Dispatch, 121 W. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360.

▶ Fax letters to (219) 872-8511.

▶ E-mail letters to [opinion@thenewsdispatch.com](mailto:opinion@thenewsdispatch.com)

toon last Thursday. It's the all-too-familiar derogatory tone, humor and negative spin Michigan City Area Schools have come to expect from the obtuse, provincial, pseudo-intellectual and uneducated writers from our local newspaper.

Or is it?

T-shirts with messages of spoiled, mean and threatening intent are all too common. Lack of judgment, disrespect of authority, family and self are displayed in this adult purchase and permission to wear in a school setting. Children who can barely read have messages printed on their shirts that shouldn't be read.

Perhaps it is really funny that a T-shirt message undercutting the child's right to a free and equitable education would be the school uniform.

The teachers, however, are NOT laughing.

*Sunny Gardner-  
Orbovich,  
art teacher  
Michigan City  
Area Schools*

## Burned church was German

The church on the front page Sunday, "Fire destroys former church," had a name. It was the German Methodist Church built by German immigrants, like my great-grandparents, in the later 1800s. Sermons were delivered in German.

It was, I'm sure, the scene of weddings, funerals, baptisms and Christmas pageants. Countless times, as a child, we drove past the church at night. Warm, jewel-toned, stained-glass windows glowed with the light from inside. The large "rose" window on the south side of the church was especially beautiful. Those period windows were replaced by the generic amber glass in the 1960s.

Like so many other pieces of our city's past, the church now sits in a

pile of rubble, waiting to be hauled away. It may join its former neighbors, the Pullman Office Building and The Works, in one of the local landfills. It is rather sad.

Before long, the site will probably be paved over, ready to house a new chain store. It is rather sad!

*Judi Stibbie  
Michigan City*

## Cane lost at store; still missing

Last Saturday, I forgot my black cane in a cart in the Wal-Mart parking lot. I checked three times to see if it was taken to customer service in the store, but three times the answer was no. My name and address are on the cane. Do you need it? I do.

*Verna Cappy  
Trail Creek*

## Firefighters quick, professional

Sunday, May 20, we experienced a devastating barn fire at our home in Coolspring Township. Fortunately, we were home and there were no injuries or loss of life to any of our family members, livestock or firefighters.

We thank the volunteer firefighters from Coolspring Township for their quick response and expertise in fighting the fire. We also express our appreciation to the Center and Scipio township volunteer fire departments, as well as the town of Westville, which also assisted. Special thanks to members of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan City Police Department and the LaPorte County EMS team who were present, too.

Not only was everyone professional in the job they had to do in regard to the fire, their concern for our emotional state was very welcoming. We appreciate the support from everyone who was there and witnessed the fire with us. Since then, we have received numerous visits, phone calls and e-mails from family, friends, neighbors and business associates whose concern for our loss has meant so much to us .... thank you!

Please support your local fire department. You never know when you are going to need their assistance. They risk their lives every day.

*Glenn and Kathy  
Lubeznik  
Coolspring Township*