

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009

## The Antics of Senator Madison and Chief Tabor



Events in Little Rock yesterday took a swipe at this remote village in the hills as the Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control Board considered a couple of permit applications. The first came when Macadoodles wanted to transfer an inactive license from south Fayetteville to I-540 in Springdale, where they would sell their elixers at a lower price than now available. The Springdale Liquor Cartel that has a near monopoly on package stores in Chickendale is against it, because they don't like competition or have any respect for the invisible hand.

Jesus Jim Holt, a former state legislator and current teabagger, is against it too, seeing as how Macadoodle's will also have some gas pumps outside. He is seeking a repeat of his successful opposition to drive the Sam's Dram Shop and Discount Club out of Ronnie's neighborhood a few years ago. "Gas and alcohol don't mix," said Holt, as if anyone would be cutting their Scotch with Super Unleaded.

Holt was joined by his anti-Sam's partner, State Senator Sue Madison of Fayetteville. Just when Macadoodles sought to open business in Washington County and start contributing to what is left of the local tax base, Madison complains, "They have lured people across the state line to purchase alcohol. They should not get a license until they have repaid Arkansas all the tax dollars we've lost." Now, I have been lured across state lines for a number of reasons, but this is the first time I have ever heard this used as an argument against recruiting a business to relocate here. Madison has assured everyone that this pretzel logic is not induced by campaign "contributions" from Jim Phillips or his cartel, but her colleague Senator Bill Pritchard said his ignorance of the issue prevented him from understanding why she was meddling.

Then, they started using Fayetteville as a punching bag. Just like Pat Gazzola preaching against the dangers of Dickson Street and Storm Carr wailing about the "dying downtown square," Fayetteville Police Chief Greg Tabor, knowing that it was too big a job for one officer, sent Sgt. James Harder, Sgt. Tim

Franklin and Cpl. Rick Chrisman to Little Rock to kill a beer permit to an E-Z Mart at 1950 North Leverett. That was a much better use of manpower than patrolling parks or solving crimes here in town.

At the urging of the attorney for the Washington County Beverage Association that opposes all new competition, Sergeant Franklin declared the area between Garland Garden apartments and North Street was a drug-infested crime-ridden hub of iniquity with nine murders within a mile in the last five years, and it was beyond the ability of the Fayetteville Police Department to make it safe for residents or businesses in that war zone where danger lurked. ABC Board member Board member J.J. Vigneault found Franklin's testimony so convincing that he not only voted against a beer permit but said, "They ought to take a bulldozer and bulldoze about the whole neighborhood down there, it looks like."

Thanks to the Fayetteville Police Department for creating such a good image of our city for the state's media, potential tourists, business prospects, and parents considering a college for their children. The picture they painted was even darker than that offered by detractors Pat Gazzola or Storm Carr.