

## A Comedy of Errors

By Michael J. Atwood

When I started writing this column, my goal was simple: write 52 articles in a row then resign. I wanted to prove to myself that I could write 52,000 words – or the equivalent of a novel – then actually go and do that, sign a Deval Patrick-like book contract with a big advance in New York City then live out my days as a writer, sharing time between North Attleborough, London, Dublin, Los Angeles, and Hawaii.

However, a funny thing happened around 20,000 words into my experiment: I actually started enjoying the job. Compliments came from people in places most hostile to art: at the St. Mark's Fair, Dunkin Donuts, sports award banquets, in restaurant bathrooms, and during wakes and funerals. People seemed to like what I was doing as much as I enjoyed creating the column.

But I'm not perfect. As a writer, I've always been excellent at content but lacking in mechanics and factuality. That said, I present to you a list of the erroneous information that I've subjected to you over that last 36 weeks. And let me be the first to apologize for the deception and thank you for patience.

- In "Home Again" I stated that the Atwood family moved to North Attleborough in 1976 – Actually, it was February 1977.
- In "Faux Irish" I claimed that the surname McHoul is Irish: nope, my good friend, Reid informed that his is actually a Scottish in origin.
- In "Things That People From North Attleborough Love! Pt. 1" I asserted that the N.A. Hockey and Lacrosse programs got part of the \$90,000 that the school committee approved. Sorry, with N.A.'s budget cuts this year, they never actually received the funds.
- Again in "Faux Irish", I asserted that my grandmother's parents came from Ireland. Wrong; I learned that it was actually one more generation back.
- In "Christmas Wish List" I wrote about Bob Gay retiring – Sorry, one more year for the long-time NAHS principal.
- In "Hockomock League Champions\*" I stated North Attleboro did not receive the Hockomock football title: the MIAA corrected me on that one, acknowledging that with Mansfield's disqualification, the Rocketeers are indeed the champs, no asterisk.
- In "Santa Monica" I suggested Tom Brady's current house was in Brentwood, a section of Los Angeles, CA. If you read Boston.com the next day, you'd have seen pictures of him bare-chested on the balcony of his rented home in Pacific Palisades.
- In "Beautiful Day" I claimed that I watched The Edge play a solo in "Beautiful Day" on Letterman. There actually is no guitar solo in that U2 song.

- In "California Dreamin'" I stated I ran an 18:37 in the Holiday Bowl 5K in San Deigo. There was some speculation by several participants that the course was actually slightly short of 3.1 miles although flat and fast.
- In "Mid-Winter Alternator Blues" I suggested tanning beds would cure Season Affective Disorder. According to WebMD, only sunlight and / or special light box has shown to be affective in curing this disorder.
- Also in that article, it came across that my experience figuring out Vegas gold vs. Notre Dame gold with ESP Solutions as being part of my frustration that week. Actually, Brian Hamilton, his artist, Dean, and the ESP Solutions in Norton are now working on 50 more sweatshirts for my track team. They do great work and I highly recommend them!
- In October, I wrote "Summer's Gone" and wrote that the Starbuck's in the Emerald Square Mall was closing. As of press time, I can still get a grande Pike's Place at the mall.
- In "Things That People from North Attleboro Love! Pt. 2" I stated that Matt Freeman was the director of Bearcroft Swim Club. This is not the case for he is too busy now focusing on his tournament –qualifying Bishop Feehan hoop team and spending time with his family.
- In "Halloween Parade" I spelled my Bishop Feehan classmate's Santa Monica bar, Sonny Maclean's incorrectly The proper spelling is Sonny McLean's. Sorry, Jimmy.
- And finally, In "Town Inquiries", I questioned the N.A. Fire Department's ?call for assistance? to the Cumberland and Plainville fire departments in response a kitchen fire on Colburn Street last month. In an email from Chief Peter Lamb, I was corrected: He states: ?We (the N.A.F.D.) get the calls for any fires or rescues in North Attleboro, no other town (does). When we arrive on the scene, if we determine it to be a ?working fire?, that is to say that we will use a hydrant and stretch hoses into the structure, a set of automatic procedures kicks in where we automatically get a Plainville engine and a Cumberland aerial ladder to support our efforts. The fire on Colburn was into the inside walls when we arrived (spread from the stove) so we immediately called a "working fire". Plainville arrived but we cancelled Cumberland while they were on the way. There is no cost involved per se: we agree to help them and do so quite frequently with ambulances or pumpers." My mistake, Chief; I apologize if I sounded critical of our excellent and much appreciated fire department, which, by the way, is facing potential cuts this year. Looks like I'll be spending my week at Kid's Day this year as my penance. My kids will be so disappointed.
- In a few of my articles, I've depicted my wife as being critical and cranky, often looking over my shoulder while I write these columns. This is not true: she's loving and supportive – even when I make it very difficult as a husband and a writer.
- In an email to editor John Andre, I promised him if he started a Facebook page he'd have 500 friends by now. We're still short: 365 - Join the N.A. Free Press FB page today!
- "To err is human, to forgive is divine." Alexander Pope