

RT/ 11/16/04  
**The South has risen again; so should slavery**

Even a casual glance at the map of blue and red states reveals a fundamental truth. The South has finally won the Civil War.

Since victory has been achieved, I feel that it's time to bring back slavery for those who do not believe in our values, the liberals, minorities and gays.

Slavery is one of our core values here in the South. After all, we fought desperately to preserve it. The benefits would also be legion.

The government would no longer need to pay for education, welfare or Social Security for those who had lost their citizenship due to their lack of values. Poor citizens could be given tax credits for additional guns to allow them to find employment as overseers. Finally, the cost of labor would be lower than in Mexico and China, causing profits to rise and the stock market to go up.

The benefits of all this could be shared with the population via tax cuts for those who had the best values.

It would seem that the reinstatement of our revered institution of slavery would be a benefit for all, and I recommend that the president and Congress consider it a priority for future legislation.

**W.B. SPILLMAN**  
FLOYD

RT/ 11/23/04  
**Offended by racist letter**

As an African-American, I'm very offended by W.B. Spillman's Nov. 16 letter to the editor, "The South has risen again; so should slavery."

We have freedom of speech, but to me, this letter served no purpose at all. It's very racist, not only to blacks, but other people of color.

I hope in the future that The Roanoke Times can do a better job screening people with these outrageous thoughts.

**RICKEY ALEXANDER**  
ROANOKE

**Quit whining and move forward**

When I first read W.B. Spillman's Nov. 16 letter to the editor, "The South has risen again; so should slavery," I was dumbfounded. I had to go back and reread it several times before it hit me.

This letter wasn't even real. There is no way that someone would write something like this. I've seen this campaign sink to some awful lows, but this is just plain disturbing.

I know in my gut and in my heart that this is someone trying to make the "red" voters look like a bunch of backward idiots. I think it's sick they would try to achieve this at the expense of so many groups of people who they are, supposedly, representing.

The campaign is over, folks, and as your fearless leader Bill Clinton told you recently, "Quit whining and start moving forward."

**ALLISON BARNETT**  
ROANOKE

RT/ 11/25/04  
**Letter doesn't speak for most people**

I'm amused, not because misled people like W.B. Spillman exist, but because the words he/she wrote (Nov. 16 letter to the editor, "The South has risen again; so should slavery") found themselves in the middle of other letters about blessings, Star City pride, morals, compassion, respect, values and character.

The more I read that letter and those surrounding it, my thoughts turned to what will prayerfully continue to happen in our world — small-minded people, with outdated ideals and oppressive tendencies, will find themselves surrounded by people with big ideas for a new season and a new day that will do away with such evil ideas. That is a time when true victory will have been achieved.

The truth of the matter is that Spillman's idea of the core values here in the South aren't "Civil" at all and whomever Spillman's "our" refers to, it doesn't include me or anyone I care to know.

**AMELIA MERCHANT**  
EAGLE ROCK

RT/11/26/04  
**Even Bush would oppose  
the return of slavery**

When I read W.B. Spillman's Nov. 16 letter to the editor, "The South has risen again; so should slavery," I was shocked that it was chosen to be printed.

After some thought, I realized it was in the readers' best interest to see this letter. What a good way to remind ourselves of where we live and what kind of people surround us.

I'm sure even a "moral" president, such as our own, would oppose the reinstatement of slavery, and I wonder who else agrees with this bigoted attitude.

**DOMINIQUE MONTGOMERY**  
CHRISTIANSBURG

RT/11/28/04  
**Think twice  
about slavery**

In response to W.B. Spillman's Nov. 16 letter to the editor, "The South has risen again; so should slavery":

Slavery was the worst thing one human could do to another.

Let me take Spillman from his home and family, strip him buck-naked, put him in chains and place him in the belly of a dark, hot, stinky cargo hole in a ship, transport him to Africa and make him work in the fields, with no water or food, for 12 hours a day.

How would Spillman like it if his wife, daughter and even his mother were raped and made to service the plantation owner? Or, even worse, have babies taken from their parents to work like an adult?

But worst of all, let Spillman hang from a tree, or even be tarred and feathered, or even beaten. And after all of this, I would put a name on him that would follow him all the days of his life and his children.

I think if Spillman would stop and think about it, he would change his idea of slavery.

**BRENDA C. RANDOLPH**  
ROANOKE

RT/12/5/04  
**Letter's absurdity  
signaled satire**

It's apparent that some readers of this newspaper need to be acquainted with the concept of satire (letters to the editor: Nov. 23, "Offended by racist letter" by Rickey Alexander; Nov. 26, "Even Bush would oppose the return of slavery" by Dominique Montgomery; Nov. 28, "Think twice about slavery" by Brenda C. Randolph).

From the notion that all Southern Republicans are rich and/or racist comes the gibe that, now in power, they might want to bring back slavery — this time based on values rather than skin color.

Say it like you mean it — "The South has risen again; so should slavery" (Nov. 16 letter by W.B. Spillman) — and that's satire. The foolishness of the assertion is obvious, a clue to its satirical nature.

Having cleared that up, I want to thank The Roanoke Times for its Nov. 26 editorial, "Unfair for the common man." Republicans won't bring back slavery, but they might do something just as bad: Dismantle America's finely tuned system of economic fascism.

Even though an unencumbered free market would generate unfathomable wealth and security, those benefits would inevitably be denied to the poor and middle class.

**ANDREW AKERS**  
SALEM