Opinion

Analogy helps explain high hospital costs

We received an interesting article from Nicholas County Hospital Board Chairman Rev. Herman B. Kamlage recently. The article, written by William J. Watt, assistant administrator/comptroller of St. Joseph Hospital Health Center, Syracuse, N.Y. is entitled "Why Are Hospital Costs So High?" It appeared in the **Congressional Record** March 1, 1977.

It is much too long to reprint here in its entirety, but for those who might find excerpts interesting, the following are some of its highlights paraphrased.

Why are hospital costs so high? In plain layman language, why are costs so high? Let us try to answer by taking a grocery store, for an example, creating several different "authorities" each of whom have control over the store, and establishing some mandatory rules under which it must operate. Many more rules were given in the article, but the point is made if the store must keep records and report the following to the "authorities":

1. Total number of customers served; broken down by employer.
2. Total minutes of customer shopping.
3. Number of customers who used shopping carts.
4. Number of customers who did not.
5. Number of customers who bought meat and nothing else.
6. Number of customers who bought bread and nothing else.
7. Number of customers who bought milk and nothing else.
8. Number of customers who bought bread and meat.
9. Number who bought bread and meat.
10. Number who bought meat and milk.
11. Number of customers who came in for one item only but who bought two or more.
12. Number who went directly to left side of store upon entering.
13. Number who went directly to right side of store upon entering.
14. Number who sauntered down the middle aisle.

Also let us now mandate that the store "give away" fifty thousand dollars worth of groceries each year. In fact, let us force the store manager to post signs in three languages, telling customers that he is required to do this; and again, records must be maintained by customer on free groceries given away under this plan, as well as records on those denied.

It sounds ridiculous to apply such criteria to a grocery store, doesn't it? But, believe it or not, hospitals are mandated by several "authorities" to report countless statistical data and are bound to many rules similar to the ones we dreamed up above.

Many examples of these requirements of hospitals are listed in the article.

They sound ridiculous when applied to a grocery store. And one can easily imagine how much higher groceries would be if the criteria were mandated.

Therefore, maybe one can understand a little better why hospital costs are so high since they are required to follow such time-consuming rules.

Beware of 'experts'

by Sam Quick

Have you ever noticed how many people are telling us how to live? The world is full of so called "experts" like myself who suggest ways of having happier and more fulfilled lives. Every year bookstores sell larger and larger numbers of paperbacks on popular psychology. It's certainly nice to have so many sources of usually excellent advice. But there's one very dangerous mistake that we often make in using this information. We tend to think that just because an "expert" said it, "it's probably true," or "it must apply to me," or "I don't have to think much about this now that I've been given an answer."

Obviously the more information "experts" provide us, the greater are our chances of making intelligent decisions. Danger lurks, however, when we as individuals fail to properly filter the massive amounts of information that increasingly bombard us. Information that is not carefully filtered through our own selves—information that we don't pass through our own bodyminds, often leads to a debilitating ailment called "information pollution." Though usually not fatal, "information pollution" can lead to a stupor-like state where a person becomes alienated or "out of touch" with his or herself. Symptoms may include "feeling like you've been had," confusion, distrust, lack of direction (who's in charge around here anyhow?), deflated enthusiasm, and a general sense of helplessness, to mention just a few.

What's the suggested remedy for this fast-spreading ailment of "information pollution?" When you hear or read new information, carefully filter it through your heart and your mind. Remember you're the expert on you. Learn to deeply respect and trust your own thoughts and feelings. After you have filtered information through yourself, if it seems right on, go with it. And if you think it sounds like "baloney," then it's "baloney."

Much information—and particularly information relative to human behavior is generally neither good nor bad. It just is. As individuals, our values, goals and needs vary considerably. What's perfect for one may be disastrous for another. When it comes to selecting information that seems personally valid, it's helpful to realize we don't need to put anyone or anything down; we only need to find out what's up for us.

Isn't it interesting that throughout history "experts" have often declared that "so and so" wasn't possible. Yet some of humankind's greatest achievements have been accomplished by individuals who had the guts to trust what was inside them—people who were either too stubborn or "too dumb" to know "it couldn't be done."

It seems that no matter what expertise or information we receive from or share with others, perhaps we would do well to always keep in mind that constantly beckoning and most central and important educational objective: To turn people on to the wisdom inside themselves. The very answers we so desperately search for often are inside ourselves. Funny, isn't it, that's usually one of the last places we look.

They just can't spel

"Elbigelli lanoscrep noitacinumec" is sweeping the country.

No, it's not a new flu strain, it's "illegible personal communication" spelled backwards. Consider these symptoms:

—According to one estimate, American businesses are losing more than $100 million a year because of errors that can be traced to illegible handwriting. These include billing mistakes, poorly written orders, scribbled messages, returned mail, garbled records and undecipherable bookkeeping entries.

—The Management Research Society, in Colorado Springs, found that the largest single cause of errors in computer systems was illegible handwriting.

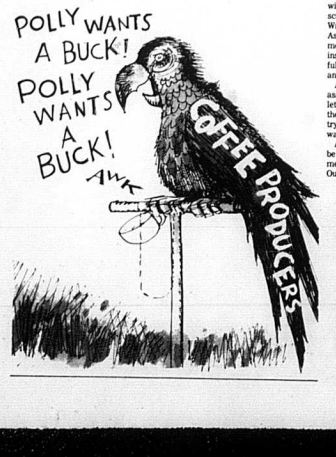
—Hundreds of thousands of tax returns are held up every year because IRS officials are unable to decipher the figures and notes on tax returns.

—The teaching of handwriting skills is virtually nonexistent in schools today; most secretaries think that their boss's handwriting is illegible, and the vast majority of people say their own handwriting is terrible—but do nothing about it.

This steadily deteriorating situation has prompted the launching of a nation-wide campaign calling for an end to scribbling. It is sponsored by the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Assn. of Washington, D.C., whose members feel their products should be instruments for accomplishing beautiful things in personal communication and not instruments of torture.

Among items of advice offered by the association are: Slow down; make your letter more open; attach lines where they are supposed to be attached, and try to make letters all slant the same way.

Above all, think of the person who will be reading what you write—and be merciful.—The Bath County News-Outlook



OFF THE WALL

GIVE RIOTERS AN INCH AND THEY WANT TO BE RULERS

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, April 4, 1957

Ewell Clinkenbeard, a young farmer in the Moorefield community, was selected as the outstanding Man Utopia Club member in Kentucky at the state meeting held March 30 at the University of Kentucky.

Miss Mary Frances Fisher was honored Friday night by the Carlisle PTA for 50 years of service as a teacher in Nicholas county. Her gift from the community was a television set.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gates of near Barterville, observed their 56th wedding anniversary on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Wagoner of Near Jackstown, Bourbon county, observed their 38th wedding anniversary Saturday.

MARRIED—Miss Joyce Megill of Los Angeles, Calif., to Kenneth Campbell, April 2, in Las Vegas, Nev.

DIED—Mrs. Myrtle Sosby, 67, Berry, last Wednesday in Cynthiana.—Abraham H. Vice, 77, Bath county, last Wednesday in Ewing.—Maud Stella McKay, 79, last Wednesday in Wilmington, Ohio.

Thursday, April 8, 1937

Approximately 200 pounds of dynamite and a number of tools were stolen from the Linville Rock Quarry near Carlisle last Saturday night.

Hubert Burns Blount of Carlisle, has been accepted for enlistment in the U.S. Navy and will report at Norfolk, Va., on April 26.

The 75,000 gallon storage tank at the Carlisle Water Works has been completed and put in operation.

Five Nicholas county young men will leave today for Clearfield CCC camp. The boys who will go are Robbie Roberts, Delbert Payne, R.D. McKay, Woodrow Lawson and Clarence Moss.

Dr. T.H. Brown, who moved to Carlisle several months ago from St. Joseph, Mo., has opened an office for the practice of his profession at his home on the Moorefield Road, near Carlisle.

More than 150 members of the 4-H Clubs in Nicholas county attended a county 4-H Club banquet in the Masonic hall last Thursday night.

Grand Master Innes B. Ross has designated Friday night, April 9 as reconsecration night for Kentucky Masons and has urged that all Masons in the state assemble at their various lodges on this date and renew their vows and allegiance to the principles of Masonry.

Miss Lattie Virginia Poage of Brooksville and James Phillip Martin of Carlisle will be united in marriage on April 9 at Brooksville.

MARRIED—Miss Sarah Catherine Tincher and Elza M. Fryman, both of the county, Monday.—Miss Lorena Ballard of Fayette county and Jean Sargent Inako of Carlisle at Versailles, Monday afternoon.

Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—Income tax time always raises some questions in the minds of Kentuckians, particularly among older persons, as to what happens with joint bank accounts and safety deposit boxes when the husband or wife dies.

There is ample state law and cases adjudicated through the Supreme Court that establish the rights of the survivor in all cases, with or without a will.

On joint bank accounts, the survivor has the right to write checks almost immediately provided it is listed Mr. or Mrs. The word "or" denotes survivorship under Kentucky law according to Bruce McCutchen in the inheritance tax division of the Department of Revenue.

However, a representative of the Kentucky Department of Revenue, usually the county Property Valuation Administrator, must certify the balance in the bank account and give the bank a release for the survivor to write checks on the account. This is for inheritance tax purposes. This usually can be done within a single day.

Where the husband and wife have a "joint lease", both entitled to enter a safety deposit box, the box is sealed. The designated representative of the survivor must have a representative of the Revenue Department, again the PVA, to take an inventory of the box for inheritance tax purposes.

In Kentucky, which is a joint property state, the wife automatically gets half of the estate in case there is no will. For example, an estate of $100,000, including real property, cash, stocks and bonds, etc., the wife would get $50,000, and $20,000 of this would be tax exempt, but she would have to pay inheritance tax on $30,000 which would amount to $700 in this example. The tax graduates higher on the remaining $50,000. A minor or incompetent child gets $10,000 exemption and adult children get a $5,000 exemption before inheritance tax starts. The wife would not pay any inheritance tax on the $50,000 or her half of the property. The amount of tax, of course, depends upon who receives the property and how many are involved as heirs. If there were enough children concerned in the $100,000 estate, it could all be tax exempt.

In any event, an estate tax form must be filed with the Revenue Department even if no tax is owed.

Some people are concerned, thinking that they must wait until the will is probated or settled before the survivor can check on the bank account or get into the safe deposit box. This can be true if part of the estate, but the survivor does have access to the checking account for all living expenses. All bills must be paid, the inheritance tax form filed, etc.

Where the home is owned in the name of both the wife and husband, the home automatically goes to her "under contract" and not by the will. The same is true of insurance policies where a beneficiary is named and not the estate.

Lawyers all say that everyone should have a will. Estates are much easier to settle when a will is left, for it usually spells out exactly how the property is to be divided among the survivors.

A person doesn't necessarily have to have a lawyer to draw a will, but it is advisable if there is much estate.

A person can write his own will, very simply. Or, a husband and wife may draw a joint will, simply stating in case of death that "all the property owned goes to the survivor".

SLAPSTIX

MOBY DICK was a whale of a book

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Letters

To The Carlisle Mercury:

The mobile blood drawing last Monday, sponsored by the Nicholas County Ministerial Association was a huge success. It was successful because members of the Association, particularly Reverend Sugg and Reverend Kamlage, had worked for four months to make it so. They checked through donor listings supplied by the Blood Center, compared past donor records and formed a very well organized "plan of action".

Very few people realize the amount of work that goes into the planning of each mobile blood drawing. We at the Blood Center wish to express our appreciation to those dedicated people who volunteered their time and efforts into making the Nicholas County Blood Program one of the most successful in the area.

Of course, no amount of work or planning will totally guarantee the success of any program unless the people are willing to support it. Nicholas countians have proved their support by making a commitment to donate their blood when called upon by the Association. Without these people, blood so desperately needed for transfusions would not be available and we shutter to think of any other alternative.

It is with the appreciation of the patients in the hospitals that the Central Kentucky Blood Center wishes to extend its thanks to all of those who have made this special commitment.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Fehish
Nicholas County Donor Service Rep.

Would You Believe...

The wind has to blow at least 75 miles per hour to be called a hurricane.

* * *

As a person ages, he tends to lose some sensitivity in his lips, but not in the fingertips.

* * *

The hearing apparatus of a fish is such that it picks up low notes better than high ones.

Harrowing or upsetting

A harrowing or upsetting experience befell Tom Strohfeldt, local expert at furniture and sporting arms restoration, and his house guest, Don Wittekind of Columbus, Ohio on Saturday as they were canoeing on the Licking River at Blue Licks between the old and new bridges. They had earlier seen three men also canoeing. On their return upstream they spied the same canoe—overturned. Fearing that the canoe's three persons were in trouble, Strohfeldt and Wittekind beached their canoe so they could go to the rescue. Returning to the scene, they were much relieved and happy to see the three men on shore, wet, disgusted and not drowned, returning to retrieve their belongings.

—MV—

The case of the barking dog as reported in Central, the Magazine of South Central Bell was unusual to say the least. A lady had noticed her phone was out of order on rainy days and that her dog usually sounded off with a strange painful yelping. Well to make a long story short, it was found the dog was chained to the telephone ground rod and being wet was acting as a ground for the ringing voltage.

—MV—

Leave it to Larry Stone and his Mulbergers column to come up with the following:

UNHAPPY LANDING

You have a plane with a pilot and five passengers—President Jimmy Carter, Ex-President Jerry Ford, Henry Kissinger, an elderly preacher and a hippy college student.

Our motors are failing. I have a wife and three kids, and I'm wearing my chute," says the pilot. "There only are four chutes left for you five and I'm gone."

So he bailed out, and President Carter, properly so, said, "I had better take one of these chutes, too, because the nation is depending upon me." And he left.

Ex-President Ford, rather apologetic, said, "I know I'm not President any longer, but the nation still needs my background and expertise, and I think I had better take a chute." Nobody argues.

Henry Kissinger said, "I am the smartest man in the world, and therefore I demand a chute," and he left.

So remaining are the elderly minister and the hippy, and the preacher said: "Young man, my time has run, and perhaps it is my moment to meet my maker, and I want you to take that parachute because your entire life is ahead of you."

At which point the student said, "No trouble, sir, we still have two chutes. The smartest man in the world just bailed out with my backpack."

—MV—

Public suggests school improvements

From the KSBA school board Reporter the top four responses in the 1976 Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes toward the Public Schools were on the specific question, "Which of these ways do you think would do most to improve the quality of public education overall?"

1) Devote more attention to teaching of basic skills; 2) Enforce stricter discipline; 3) Meet individual needs of students, and 4) Improve parent/school relations.

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Saltwell

by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hill and Mrs. John T. Dawson of Cynthiana spent Thursday with Mrs. Thomas Gaunce.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce were Wednesday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gunn and sons.

William Burden spent several days the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cox and John of Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Snapp and Eddie, Cincinnati, and Mrs. Roger Goodman and daughters of Buffalo, N.Y. spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Snapp. Mrs. Gladys Bobb and Miss Hallye Griffin, Carlisle, were also Sunday dinner guests of the Snapps, honoring several birthdays of their family recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar and Everett Snapp spent Tuesday with Mrs. Malcolm Snapp near Neave, Ky.

Mrs. Howard Livingood spent Wednesday with relatives in Winchester.

Mrs. Stanley W. Caswell, Carlisle, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Gaunce and Norma.

Mrs. Clarine Lynam, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar visited Mrs. Woodrow Gaunce, Carlisle. Mrs. Gaunce returned home this past Thursday after recent surgery at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington.

Our community was saddened by the death of Mrs. Dora Blanche Haynes the past week. Funeral was at Matherly-Shearer Chapel on Thursday morning and burial on Friday in Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Haynes had formerly lived here.

Mrs. Thomas Gaunce visited Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Maffett on Sunday afternoon.

Martha and Daley Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Blakeman and daughters were Wednesday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kennedy in Lexington.

Herbert Blakeman and Raymond Kennedy, Dana and Penni Blakeman of Lexington spent Sunday with Daley Kennedy.

Miss Martha Kennedy spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kennedy of Lexington. On Sunday she and Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Herbert Blakeman, Mrs. Hazel Tinkersley and Miss Wilden Wilson attended the Blue Grass Women and Children's Apparel Club Show at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville.

Greg Doyle spent Friday night with Robert Thacker.

Mrs. E.P. Laughlin entered St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington, on Wednesday and underwent surgery there on Thursday and remains a patient there.

Mrs. Gladys Kenney spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar.

Mrs. Kelley Sensabaugh of Lexington spent several days the past week with her daughter, Mrs. Carl Cohorn and Mr. Cohorn and Mike. Mr. and Mrs. Mike Marsh and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fryman and daughter were also Sunday visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Gaunce and children, Sunrise.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar, and Mrs. Gladys Kenney visited Mr. and Mrs. Strauder Hollar and family and Mrs. J.K. Maffett on Sunday afternoon.

Everett Snapp and William Burden were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Mattox and Mrs. Mae Ritchie.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Green of Lexington visited Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Knippenberg and family and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mitchell and son spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Dennis of North Middletown.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Snapp and J. Mullins of Lexington, Miss Alma Mattox, Paris, and Mrs. Bobby Brady visited Everett Snapp on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Doyle and family, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Doyle and children, Mr. and Mrs. David Doyle and family, Harrison county, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady and Mr. and Mrs. Charley Doyle and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Orville Doyle on Sunday.

Sandye Thacker spent Friday night with Sharon Doyle.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Stone, Cynthiana, spent one day the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Orville Doyle.

On Dean's List

Michael Judge, Carlisle Route 2 has been named to the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture dean's list for the 1976 fall semester.

To achieve this recognition, a student must achieve a high academic standing.

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Should you lose or misplace your prescription and have no record of the prescription number, we will be able to immediately supply you with this information.
These records will be available to you for Income Tax deductions, Insurance requirements or any other purpose you may desire.
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MMI federal inspection held

The Junior Army Reserve Officer Training Program of Millersburg Military Institute and Nicholas County High School underwent its Annual Federal Inspection on Thursday, March 17. A Department of the Army Inspection Team headed by Colonel John A. Simpson of 2nd ROTC Region visited both schools and conferred with school officials, Colonel Alvan C. Hadley, Jr., president of MMI, and Cobbie Lee, principal of Nicholas County High School.

The itinerary for the inspection included a tour of the JROTC facilities at both MMI and NCHS and a briefing on the JROTC Program by the Cadet Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ellis Bingham, the Adjutant, Captain Arnell Hope, the Operations Officers, Cadet Captain Tom Harris, and the Supply Officer, Cadet First Lieutenant Jim Osborne. This was followed by an inspection of the cadet barracks, a formal inspection in the gymnasium of the combined JROTC unit and a parade and critique delivered by Colonel Simpson on the excellent performance of all the cadets. He reviewed the purposes of the JROTC Program as being the development of responsible citizenship, teamwork, courtesy, leadership, and respect for constituted authority. He praised the Corps of Cadets and the NCHS Company for their appearance, performance and progress since their last Annual Inspection in March of last year.

Whereas, the NCHS Company B has included girl cadets since its formation last year, MMI had its first five girl cadets present in the Corps of Cadets for its first AFI as a co-educational school. The inspectors were most complimentary in regard to their enrollment into the Corps of Cadets. The final official report will be forthcoming after completion of the inspection of all JROTC units in the region later next month. The Annual Inspection serves as an annual validation as to the school's required enrollment (100 or more), adequate performance of the 96 hours program of instruction and demonstrated activities in pursuit of the objectives of the JROTC Program.

Nicholas County High School students participating in MMI's federal inspection on March 17

General Electric GREAT ANNUAL TRUCKLOAD SALE!
From now until April 19, 1977, GE has reduced its price in varying amounts on these selected models, so you can get big savings. The amount of savings varies by model, and is optional with dealer. See your participating dealer for his prices and terms.
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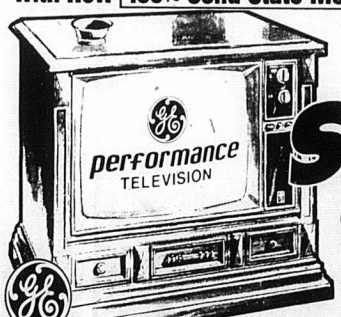
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