

Opinion

Guest editorial No afterthought

[Editor's note: The following is the Kentucky Press Association's First Amendment essay contest winner. The writer is a junior at Eastern Kentucky University from Louisville majoring in Journalism. The essay first appeared in the EKU college paper, *The Eastern Progress*.]

By Barry Miller
"Congress shall make no laws abridging freedom of the press..." The framers of our Constitution wrote that, of course, but more important than to write it is where they wrote it. In the First Amendment, it was not an afterthought, this guarantee of a free press; those who wrote the Constitution knew the necessity of a free press to the kind of society they envisioned, and knew it well enough that they recognized it in the First Amendment.

And just as important as where they wrote it is how they wrote it. In unambiguous terms. They didn't write "Congress shall not make too many laws abridging freedom of the press." "Congress shall make no law..." Some parts of the Constitution are vague, and purposely so; they were left to be interpreted as the mood of the times makes necessary. But there is no interpreting to be done with this part of the Constitution. "Congress shall make no law..." — who can argue with the intent of that?

And so the question "What does the First Amendment mean to me?" could easily be

Agree or Not

Who's fooling whom?

By S. C. Van Cavan
FRANKFORT — No definitive plan of action emerged from all the discussions about the budget last week by the legislature, his financial experts and members of the General Assembly.
The one clear message that came through is that legislators are in no mood to increase taxes. This is the consensus, although Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. said legislators that an additional \$137 million will be needed in the General Fund and transportation. Secretary Frank Kern said an additional \$145 million will be needed for the state's increase of services to be continued.
The state's increase of legislators comes in the face of actions by Gov. Brown to trim the budget and to reduce the number of state employees by one percent by June 1. The governor also has issued other money-saving messages. He has dropped the governor's contingency fund, reduced the cost of staff in his office, cut salaries of many high paid appointive commission members, frozen capital expenditures, reduced the number of personal service contracts.
However, the governor's money-saving campaign is not enough, he says, to offset inflation and continue to provide essential services in the Commonwealth.
The governor's explanation may sound reasonable to the average citizen, but many legislators are casting a jaundiced eye at all this.

Several seasoned legislators say privately, "There'll be plenty of money here if we don't levy an additional penny in taxes."
They don't mind citing you the millions that Gov. Julian Carroll has poured in to build a capital construction, personal service and school bonds. They don't mind citing you the millions that Gov. Julian Carroll has poured in to build a capital construction, personal service and school bonds.



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SARATOGA GANG

Down Memory Lane Snowfall measures 10 inches; RECC opens Carlisle office

Thursday, February 18, 1980
Most roads in Nicholas County emerged from their sheath of ice and snow Tuesday afternoon and schools resumed operation on Wednesday. Unofficial recordings of snowfall Saturday night to 10 inches with drifts at six feet.
Soil Conservation Service Costeaters are Sue Levin, first Joyce Caswell, second; Lesae Roberts, third; Sally Hamilton, fourth; Frankie Ham, fifth. Frank Henry and William Threlkeld presented certificates and cash prizes last week.
Seventeen 4-H boys and 13 adults and leaders recently attended the second of a series of five lessons on tractor care and maintenance held at Busby's Garage. Leaders conducting lessons are Sam Burden, Beacom Sorrell, W.R. Bustin Jr., Robert Harper and Billy Harter.

Scout executive, was the guest speaker.
BORN — To Major and Mrs. Charles Rhodes Buffon of Hampton, Va., a daughter, Janet, Feb. 10. — To Mr. and Mrs. Egin Smith of Beulah, a daughter, Kimberly Carr, Feb. 4 in Paris. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miller, a daughter, Cynthia Ann, Feb. 5. — To Mr. and Mrs. Edward Leedy, a daughter, Nancy Ellen, Feb. 13. — To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Linnell, a daughter, Susan Lorraine, Feb. 13. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sepp, Waycross, Ga., a daughter, Leticia Catherine, Feb. 5.

The heavy snow was accompanied by a cold wave with thermometer to 15 degrees above zero Tuesday night. About half of the school buses were unable to make their rounds.
Dr. W.B. Hopkins, local physician and surgeon, sustained several fractured ribs and minor cuts and bruises last Thursday night when his automobile collided with another car on a curve on U.S. Highway 68 near the home of J. Clarke Lee.
February 13, 1899 was the coldest day ever recorded by the weather bureau in Kentucky. The official recording for Lexington on that date was 20 degrees below zero. The date being court day in Carlisle, a day which usually brought large crowds into town, was marked by the fact that only one horse was checked to the hitchrack.

The 50th anniversary of Scouting was observed with a banquet in the following hall of the Christian Church Feb. 11 with 150 persons in attendance. Hugh Miller, district

Thursday, February 15, 1940
The heaviest snow of the winter fell here Tuesday and Tuesday night and Wednesday morning with unofficial recordings placing the

Mercury vapors

By Warren R. Fisher
I didn't leave you much space I should be tickled that I wasn't left much space on the editorial page. If I wasn't left much space then what space was left should be attributed to you. I of course verified the remark by measuring with my picot stick, a gift of South Central Bell in 1972 and found there was roughly 69 picos or for all practical purposes 10 1/2 inches. And now that 1 1/4 inches looks as large as a whole page when I'm down to the wire and can't find my notes.

remains completely inactive. Turn the hot water heater, however, and the Thorn automatically springs into action, producing gobs and gobs of steaming hot water. Thorn water heaters are manufactured in England to the highest standards of quality and performance.

Editor's notes

How long...
I have had a long back? Oh, about a week back. I woke up one morning that long ago with a strange twing in my back. Actually, it wasn't that strange since I'd had a sore throat but I couldn't remember what kind of strenuous activity brought it on. Usually my most taxing task of the day is climbing steps.
An hah, but then I remembered. Since the snows came about three of them have gotten stuck in front of the Mercury office. My rule of thumb is if I hear the tires spin more than four times I go and shove. I did so more correctly or more correctly than I did Wednesday afternoon and when I put my back into a push I realized where that twing originated.
The boss says his Good Samaritan instincts are still intact but his back is not and he's left the good deeds to me. The truth is, his crying, spinning tires disturb my concentration. How can a fellow creep with all that going on?

The first push of the snow was his right after the first snow when Dr. Elmer Fuller and I gave a shove to a car that couldn't shuffle it up Chestnut Hill. Dr. Fuller was in his white smock and the fates smiled on him that day. I was the one behind the spinning tire and sniffling slush.

In the mail
Last week when the Mercury was mailed also marked the start of a new sorting system for newspapers and the experience here was, to say the least, confusing.
You see, when the Mercury it mailed we don't take it to the post office and dump it into the "Local" and "Out-of-town" boxes. No sir, we sort it, sack it and label it. Now we have a new labeling system based on colors and letters rather than just plain words and we break the mess down further than we used to do.
The idea is to save us money and the post office time. Hereafter, we mailed the papers in about 10 mail sacks. Now that number is tripled. Some of the sacks have only six papers in them which you have to admit is not going to hurt anybody's back (see above).
It is confusing, adding, astounding, stupefying, exasperating, confounding and it began one week after I finally got it ready with the old system.

Tuesday, coach
Now the way I look at it is this: I have two more years to go on my degree and four years of eligibility left. Sooner or later Joe Hall is going to need a long-range shooting guard. After all, Sluder and Macy are seniors this year.
So I moved my trash can to the other side of the room and I'll up all my paper trash so I can practice those downtown bounces. I'm ready, coach. And I'm not really too old. Age adds experience, you know. And there is a place for the little man in the college basketball (I'm 5-8 1/2 and stretch it a little). Besides that's about the only way I'll ever get into Rupp Arena to see a UK game.

Car Curator
Speaking of the Wildcats their Number One Fan in Lexington, Nicholas County native Forrest Curtis, has sent me another Car package.
Mr. Curtis sent a picture of the 1978 seniors that won the NCAA title, a schedule and a bumper sticker from the Saratoga Game. Mrs. Curtis works at the Saratoga Resort and she and her husband and the regulars there have banded together to form a roving club, complete with bumper stickers. Mr. Curtis also said he's got a summer UK cap for me and will send it to me when the snows leave.
By that time, of course, the Cats should be in Market Square in Lexington for all the marinating for all the marinating. At least that's what former UK player and "Bama coach" C.M. Newton thinks. And so Mr. Curtis and I, and, as they say, a case of thousands.



The Jerk

East Enders push council

These four snowmovers built a "wild and crazy" last week on Cliffway Drive. "The Jerk", as they named their creation, stands more than five feet tall. The builders are from left, Kevin Watkins, Jimetta Carter, Brian Watkins and Tim Hall. — Mercury Photo.



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Tree seedlings available

As a landowner, do you have some idle land which has grown up in brush or undesirable trees and is producing no returns for you? If so, an ideal way to bring this land into profitable production is to plant tree seedlings. The Kentucky Division of Forestry will supply the seedlings at low cost, ranging from \$5 to \$8 per thousand seedlings. The minimum order is \$9 per one hundred seedlings. Trees will be available through the Division of Forestry. Assistance through the county ASCS office is available for 75 percent of the total cost of a tree planting operation. Tree seedlings available from the state nurseries are locust pine, Virginia pine, white pine, Scotch pine, shortleaf pine, yellow poplar, white oak, black walnut, Chinese chestnut, white ash, cottonwood, sycamore, black alder, autumn olive, black locust, and a special packet of 100 mixed seedlings designed for wildlife plantings. Assistance is available to purchasers in selecting the species they should plant and methods of planting. The Division of Forestry also offers technical assistance to anyone needing advice concerning the proper management of timber and timberlands. Anyone desiring assistance should contact the District Forester, 700 West First Street, Morehead, KY 40351, phone 606-784-7904. Persons in Nicholas County interested in obtaining seedlings should contact Gene Barrow, Nicholas County Unit Ranger, at phone 698-0800, Rt. Bradley Hill, Nicholas County Guard, at phone 698-2443, the Soil Conservation Service, county ASCS office, or the Extension Service, all in Carlisle.

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