

Opinion

ERA and the draft

Editor's note: The following guest editorial is written by the regular columnist, a senior at Nicholas County High School and the Kentucky Press for the Mercury. Miss Conley's editorial is being printed to fulfill requirements for entry into a contest sponsored by the Kentucky Press Women. A feature on the Kentucky General Assembly, also written by Miss Conley for the Kentucky Press Women, is featured in this week's Mercury.

By Kay Conley
A topic that has made its way into public discussion in recent days is the draft. Following President Carter's announcement that all men and women, age 18 and up, register for the draft in a case of critical situation, the draft debate is widespread.
The draft question is widely discussed at bridge clubs, meetings, grocery stores, and particularly in high schools where the age division for registration begins.
There is also much argument now as to whether a woman is physically or mentally strong enough to withstand the pressures of the draft's pros and cons however, it can be concluded that President Carter's request for registration of both men and women is worthwhile and is in the public's best interest.
With the push for the Equal Rights Amendment, it

seems only natural that women also volunteer to register for the draft. If women are so determined for passage of ERA, then how can they exclude themselves from draft registration? If the draft is right for men and women and women are equal, then it's mandatory that both men and women register.
Some people possess no ERA hang-ups and are probably reluctant about the issue because they don't want to interrupt their lives to serve their country.

But as the idea begins to sink in and most men and women begin to become familiar with it, their patriotism emerges. Being Americans, and patriots, helps them overcome their fears and settle down to face the issue. This leads to overall acceptance and ultimately registering for the draft. This strong devotion to country enables them to do whatever is necessary to defend it.

The announcement of draft registration by President Carter can only benefit us. Women, as well as men, must realize their duty to their country. If a crisis does arise, the rearmament of the draft might become a necessity and we, as united Americans, shall be prepared because of the earlier registration. After all, it's best to be prepared and safe — just in case.

Agree or Not

Brown's bills coming

By S. C. Van Curen
FRANKFORT — While 25 days of the 60-day legislative session were completed last Friday, there has been little controversial debate, but it will warm up some when the professional negotiators begin their talks this week for the very first time.
When the governor's small package of bills gets into the legislative mill, interest will intensify.

Former Brown's workers compensation bill or bills also will draw a great amount of interest. This is a subject that has been debated in legislative halls but has been one of the chief controversial subjects studied by committees since the 1978 session.

Business and industry spokesmen already have spent a lot of time preparing to push through a more favorable package of bills as the subject which labor spokesmen are busy building their fences to see that their constituents do not come out on the short end of the horn.
Both sides generally agree that the cost is much higher in Kentucky than in any other state while benefits are not maintaining a ratio in comparison to cost.

During the 1974 day of this legislative session, one subject is being overlooked by legislators and many citizens involved pertaining to retirement and pensions. Already 39 bills have been introduced on the subject covering about every phase of public employees from state employees to teachers, firemen, policemen, county and city employees.

Two bills relate to military credits for state employees and one provides an appropriation for the state to accomplish leading the program.
One bill in the Senate covers about every phase of the retirement funds in three class cities for police and firefighters. One change would require vesting in the retirement system after 10 years of service and allow retirement at any age after 30 years of service. It also pertains to retirement systems covering several retirement classifications for state and county employees and maybe others.

It is a very long bill and is full of statute references by numbers only which would require a vast amount of legal research to report everything to citizens.
A bill in the Senate would permit state employees and employees of the State Police to receive up to six months of credit for unused sick leave during their tenure as employees under this system. This

bill also requires an appropriation. One bill has passed the House that would prohibit county police merit boards for requiring retirement of officers or employees of age 55. Jefferson County now requires such retirement of police officers at age 55.
Another bill would permit a dependent of a deceased member of the General Assembly to draw from the retirement fund after the death of the assembly member.
Two other bills relate to retirement of state policemen. One would increase the accrual rate and the other would set final retirement compensation upon three rather than five years of employment. These bills would increase the amount of retirement pay in keeping with the economy.

At least eight bills pertain to teacher retirement, from increasing the number of days a retired teacher may work as a substitute teacher without penalty, while other bills relate to cost-of-living benefits, while another provides for sunset exemptions.
Another bill would go so far as to permit public school teachers covered under the retirement system to purchase retirement credit for time spent in teaching in private or parochial schools before being employed by the public system.

Another bill would reduce the percentage to be paid in by university members of the teachers' retirement system from seven and eight-four hundredths percent of salary to five and six hundred twenty-five hundredths percent of salary. The bill also would increase the state's share of contribution to balance apparently the reduction for the employee.

This does not cover teachers in the secondary and elementary systems.
Public employees are looking more seriously at their retirement years than in the past.

IN QUOTES
"The proper study of mankind is woman."
—Confucius

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Down Memory Lane

Doc Bradshaw honored

Thursday, February 25, 1960
The Nicholas County Junior Chamber of Commerce reports that the sum of \$740 has been set aside for use in their current

project of wiring and installing air conditioners for the Nicholas County Hospital.
J. E. Bradshaw, with over 40 years in the drug business, was honored by the Retail Company Tuesday when his business, The Carlisle Drug Company, was named a Retail Honor Store.

Fire destroyed the home of Elmo Myers on the Cassidy Creek Road near Myers on Saturday.
BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farrow, a son, David Wayne, Feb. 21. — To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Snapp a daughter, Paula Jean, Feb. 17. — To Mr. and Mrs. Everett Fryman, a son, Feb. 16. — To Mr. and Mrs. Garnett Gray, a son, Darrell Dean, Feb. 15.

MARRIED — Miss Betty Ann Newton, Lexington, to Winfred C. Hughes of Lexington, Sunday in Lexington.
DIED — Mrs. Lida Parker Hann, 87, last Wednesday. — John William Earlywine, 70, Wednesday. — Mrs. Hattie Ruth Dye, 88, Saturday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lottie Wagoner, 45, Olney, Kentucky, Saturday, Feb. 14. — Mrs. Sarah R. Stamer, 83, at her home in Manchester, Saturday. — Mrs. Richard J. Hunt, 59, Tuesday in Lexington. — Robert Allison Collins, 73, Monday.

MARRIED — Miss Clara Clever of Bourbon County and Milton Prebble of Cynthiana, Feb. 18 at Georgetown. — Miss June Duncan of the county and Marion Kinnett of Augusta at Augusta, Feb. 10.

DIED — Mrs. Dolly Gray Hawkins, last Thursday at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Lexington. — J. Keenan Henry, 85, Monday at his home on Turman Avenue — Ernest Willoughby, 32, Sunday at Johnson Memorial Hospital. — Ora Jones, 63, at his home on the Upper Jackson Road on Friday.

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Letters

Dear Mr. Fisher and Staff:
We would like to thank you for the article on Home Health Week that you published in the Mercury the week of Feb. 14. The picture was clear, the content informative, accurate and well written.

We love Nicholas County and its people and earnestly desire to serve them.
Sincerely,
Nicholas County Home Health Agency

Editor's note: The following letter was submitted to the Mercury so that interested persons could share its content.
Mr. Allen Clay Stone
Buckle, Kentucky 40311
Dear Mr. Stone:
I thought my desk looked cleaner than usual Monday when I arrived at work but it was only the absence of the miring mail, which took a day of silence in honor of Abe Lincoln and George Washington.

A bunch of us were sitting around last weekend when one fellow, who works on a banking contract crew, wondered if anybody would be working on Presidents Day. A legal holiday these days, you see, is one when the banks, post office and federal government take off. All the rest of us poor suckers have to work.
To make a long story short, my friend had to work. "How about you, Jeff?" Well, if the Second Coming arrived on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, I would find me at the Mercury office. If not there, the hospital. That's the only other place I would be.

Cuisine comments
There ain't nothing better than [burp] three-day-old chili. Unless it's four [bar-room]-day-old chili.

Movie's right along
Readers of the Lexington Herald and this space may have noticed something in common last week. The city paper ran a story on Nicholas native Forrest (Buddy) Curtis who is a regular correspondent via mutual status as a Wild Cat Fan.
I don't think I am around with a metal detector detecting metal under the ground. Sometimes its coins, which sounds like not a bad idea at all.

Bouncer's blues
I don't think my former neighbor and coach at my alma mater, Virgil Jenkins of Harrison County, is looking forward to this week's game with the Bluejackets.

The two teams are meeting again after a hiatus of several years and the last thing Virgil needs now is for NCHS to beat his former coaching Thorobreds, who dropped a game to Bourbon in Cynthiana by a two-digit margin recent.

Mike Kenney has turned boy scout around and this year's record looks like a mirror image of last year's — reversed, of course. I asked Mark Vice how come, after a recent photo session.
"We're just good!" he answered. "We're just good!"

Now there's an answer! I like. No sugar-coating, no beating-around-the-bush. Just tell it like it is. My money's on the Jackets (Jerry, Virgil and I) be there at court-side Saturday night.



Allen Hardin recently served as a Page in the Kentucky House of Representatives for Rep. Adrian Arnold of the 74th District, which includes Nicholas County. — State photo.

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The system is currently the best method of getting timely weather information to farmers and other interested individuals," said weather Extension meteorologist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.
Of great value is the special weather alerting system whereby weather forecasters activate specially designed warning receivers when an emergency exists, alerting listeners to turn up their receivers to an audible volume or automatically turning on receivers so the warning message can be heard, according to Priddy.
Regular AM/FM radios can't pick up any of three possible stations in the system (162.40, 162.475 and 162.50 MHz). However, Priddy noted that weather radios can be purchased at most discount and appliance stores at reasonable prices.
If you're within 40 miles (60 miles maximum) of one of 16 locations in the area, you should be able to receive weather information on a weather radio. Those locations are: Lexington, Ashland, Cincinnati, Hazard, Pikeville, Somerset, Louisville, Elizabethton, Mayfield, Bowling Green and Evansville.
Priddy said that since the system works on "line of sight" reception, some reception problems have occurred in the eastern part of the state due to such factors as topography and radio quality. "Some weather radios have external antennas which for better radio reception," noted Priddy. "In addition, more transmission will be built to improve radio reception in the eastern part of the state."
Types of weather information available on the weather radio system include: Kentucky weather warnings, updated at 11 a.m., 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; agricultural forecasts and advisories, updated at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Page from a page's notebook

By Kay Conley
The table buzz could be heard throughout the corridor. One fact was evident: The 1980 General Assembly was in full swing.
January 24 was definitely not just another day in the Kentucky House of Representatives, instead it was a special occasion indeed! January 24 was the day of a joint session, a meeting of both the House and Senate, and Chief Justice John Palmer of the Kentucky Supreme Court, addressed the session on the problems facing the four-tiered court system in Kentucky. Also it was the day that I visited the "bees" busy at work.
I viewed the entire assembly first-hand as an active page and I will never forget that day.
After being "shown the ropes" and having a grand tour of my working facilities for the second time I had a previous opportunity in 1976 to participate as a page. I quickly and knowingly positioned myself for the assignment.
Quiet at first
During the joint session not many calls for errands were given so I retreated, along with several other friends, to an out-of-the-way place along the side wall.
There I stood, trying to act naturally as TV cameras "beamed around at all angles. Keeping my head faced straight I noticed the cameras from the corner of my eye. Trying to look like I was not looking at the camera was quite difficult.
After Chief Justice Palmer finished speaking and the senators led by Lt. Governor Martha Layne Collins left the House Chambers, the board of officers soon began quickly lighting the board, which ruled my duty, was positioned on each side of the Speaker of the House's seat and each member was jointly assigned to a desk and a representative.
As this meant that I was to begin my duties. As some of my friends stood by reluctantly, I jumped to answer the first light. Because it was my second assignment, I made me less shy and more eager to begin. Also, because I had the chance to participate in Kentucky Girl's State in the summer of 1979 as a representative, I knew a little of what was going on.

Falselarm
So it is, ready and waiting for anything. Much to my dismay, my first call was nothing but a mere false alarm.
"I'm sorry I pushed that button," the representative said.
I was sorry too, because I had missed the chance of answering other buttons. Disappointed, I took my seat up front.
Luckily, another light was soon on. This time, as I made my way to the bill room, canteen, and back to the representatives' very good look at the real work of the Capitol work. It's certainly quite different than one would normally imagine. The "bees" were not the only ones buzzing around busily at work. Many of our employees were too. Some of the employees' jobs were interesting. Two ladies were preparing certificates stating that certain people had acted as pages. I watched for a few minutes — realizing that it would be getting one of the certificates — and then returned to the House to fulfill my duties there.

Ends quickly
The two-hour session, which consisted of propositions such as abortion and the voting by the representatives, ended suddenly for me. When it was all over I was ready for the picture to be taken with my friends and Rep. Adrian Arnold. I couldn't find one of our group. She had disappeared, finding out later, to an office, got tied-up and didn't get away sooner.
As we prepared to leave the House Chambers, I realized that for all my hard work I had acquired an eleven-cent tip (I regretted.

however, that my "lost" friend had attained a \$1.15 tip! Oh, well, as old saying goes: it is the experience that counts rather than the money. Experience is one thing I definitely had Jan. 24, when I, for one day, was a participant in the 1980 General Assembly.
"No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader."
— Robert Frost

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Fish & Game supper
The Nicholas County Fish and Game Club will have a potluck supper at the club house on Friday at 7:30 p.m.