Opinion

Guest Editorial

A lost opportunity

By Anthony Harrigan

LONDON, England — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's failure to tackle the unions when she came to power is costing her dearly now. There is little hope at this point that she will be able to turn Britain around.

As I write this column, one union of "civil servants" is attempting to shut down defense communications. Another union composed of customs workers is preventing the rapid unloading of a commando vessel carrying Royal Marines.

Wherever one looks in this country, unions are threatening national paralysis if they don't get the pay boosts they demand. It is a very dismal outlook. Though the Labor Party is out of power, the unions are the real power in the country.

For all the abuses of power by unions in the United States, American unions don't possess anything like the power of the unions in Britain. The latter bitterly resist reforms aimed at greater industrial productivity — the country's principal need.

While nationalization of British industry has been an unmitigated disaster, the British unions want more of the same. This past year, for example, nationalized British Steel Corp. lost hundreds of millions of pounds.

The power of the unions is embedded in social attitudes that dominate this country. One of these attitudes is the notion that wealth is something to be shared, transferred or redistributed, not to be created. In the mind of the unionized worker is the idea that if one works too hard, another worker will suffer. This leads to a static society. Indeed, innovation is alien to much of the British work force, though British inventors have been very resourceful.

The static character of British socialism is, in part, an outgrowth of the status system of British society. Special privilege and preference is an idea that finds favor with Britons. No where else in the world today does one find a society that is so class conscious.

As a British friend pointed out to me, this is a "them and us" society. To an astonishing degree, Britons are separated from one another by language, dress and education.

If America suffers from excessive leveling, Britain is hurt by the social differences between classes.

The perception of this gap reinforces the union power. It makes the working man reluctant to believe that economic innovation will work to his advantage. He sees change as an opportunity for the elite to reinforce their economic advantage.

Mrs. Thatcher had an opportunity to break the union power and change class relationships and perceptions to some degree. She failed to do so, however, partly because she selected a Cabinet that didn't understand the need for basic change in British society.

As a result, the Thatcher government is bogged down. The time for decisive change away from socialist practices and a status society seems to have passed. The British people are likely to experience more of the same, a gradual rundown of their economy.

Agree or Not

Good judgment loses battle to ambition writer declares

By S.C. Van Curon

It was a sad day in the news business when ambition overcame good judgment and all of the basic rules just to win a prize or the admiration of fellow workers.

This refers to all of the shame that was brought down upon the Washington Post and all journalism when Janet Cooke admitted to her editors that her Pulitzer prize-winning feature story was a composite fabrication containing manufactured quotes. Her purpose, it seems to me, was to write a super heart-touching story without regard to the facts or truth.

The public soon forgets the good deeds that are done by the news media in exposing transgressions of public officials and misbehaviors of man in general as well as selective praise of individuals and groups for worthy accomplishments. That is the job of the press.

But, let the press be the culprit in a major transgression or violation of the accepted rules of society and it is long remembered. And, it should be, for the press is the one medium that has so long shouted for rights of the public under the First Amendment, and has stood at the battlefront in the courts to protect these rights.

One transgression on the part of the press gives the fickle public the opportunity, and yes, I say right, to rail at us for not practicing what we have continually preached.

In my more than 50 years in the business, I have seen major advancements made in the process of gathering and disseminating the news. Many of these advancements have been mechanical, but just as much advancement has been made in the writing and the presentation of the news in an understanding manner to the public.

Personal journalism has all but disappeared from the scene and the discarding of the jumbled cumbersome formula of the old summary lead has made for faster reading and clearer presentation of the facts.

Looking back though, there was some merit to the old required summary lead, and the stiff requirement for attribution.

If a reporter wrote a story that a man was shot, the reporter had to quote a public official as saying so, either directly or indirectly. A reporter's eye-witness account was not sufficient to satisfy the wire services. This meant that the reporter had to check and verify his sources of information, and editors made this requirement a must. No story ever passed the news desk without attribution if the circumstances required it.

Writing changed a lot after the close of World War II. Sentences were made shorter for easier reading and clearer understanding. Repetitive attribution was eliminated and reporters were encouraged to tell the story in words familiar and easy for them instead of following the formula.

Even now, some newspapers require that reporters to jazz up the news, so to speak, instead of merely putting down the prosaic facts. The atmosphere, much like that in a novel, is sometimes put into a story in a concise manner because it enhances the reader's ability to understand the circumstances under which the news happened. Weather, storms, slick roads, and other conditions are often important parts of a story.

Granted, there have been improvements in writing since World War II, this does not give a reporter the license to stray from the mandate to report the facts and be sure they are verified facts and not the whimsical imagination of one source.

In the last few years, too many young reporters have tried to emulate the youngsters who uncovered the Watergate story. They're more interested in seeking recognition and glory than earning a slow but solid reputation as a thorough and reputable newsman whose credentials speak for themselves.

First, the youngsters must learn to be reporters before they can become investigative reporters.

The Janet Cooke incident serves as a warning to us all in this profession that public confidence is the greatest asset we possess.

"Truly absurd is the man who never changes."
Auguste Barthelmy

Down Memory Lane

958 attend Sunday School

Thursday, May 4, 1961

Eugene Neal, local grocery owner, found a bunch of keys in a sack of potatoes he opened. The keys had an address with them so Mr. Neal mailed them to Jose Garza of Paul, Idaho. The following week Mr. Neal received a letter thanking him for returning the car keys.

Farmers are having increasing difficulty with snails, or slugs, in their tobacco beds.

Rev. I.S. Pineur of the Methodist Church entered the Nicholas County Hospital Tuesday after suffering a heart attack.

Dr. William R. Willoughby, a native of Carlisle and graduate of the University of Kentucky, has been elected president of the New York State Political Science Association.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith a son, Anthony Wayne, April 5. — To Capt. and Mrs. Gerald Griffith a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, April 12 at Ft. Campbell Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McCollum a son, April 21 at the Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Ray Evans a daughter, Jill, April 27 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds Jolly a son, May 1 at the Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Sara Rebecca Gaunce and Larry Wayne Gum, March 11 at the Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington. — Miss Lucille Crouch and James Edward Chisholm Saturday in Jellico, Tenn.

DIED — Jesse J. Earlywine, 54, Nicholas County native, Wednesday in Covington. — Ernest C. Dale, 57, Saturday at his home in Nicholas County. — Mrs. Jessie Scott Suggs, 70, Monday at the Nicholas County Hospital. — Albert Hawkins, 82, Monday at his home in Moorefield.

Thursday, May 1, 1941

John Lee was slightly injured and his car demolished last week when he fell asleep at the wheel while coming through Ellisville and crashed into the side of a barn.

Clyde Marshall of this county and Pete Scott of Bourbon County narrowly escaped being burned to death in Paris Monday afternoon when ignited gasoline burned both men slightly before they jumped out of the driver's side of the cab.

Aunt Sallie Hamm, well-known resident of the Concord section who is past 80 years old, was in Carlisle last Saturday night and saw the bright lights for the second time in her life. She often walks the five miles to town and is seen almost every Saturday with her black sunbonnet and walking stick. She is often given a lift by passing motorists.

MARRIED — Miss Anna Frances Vickers, 21, of Nicholas County, and Harold D. Powers, 22, Bath County, were issued a marriage license April 26. — Miss Ruby Cooper, 18, and George B. Smart, 21, both of Nicholas County, were issued a marriage license Saturday, April 26.

DIED — Edward L. Parker, 86, Saturday morning at the home of a cousin, Roger V. Harp, in Lexington. — Mrs. Essie Alexander McCann, 58, widow of J.H. McCann, Thursday at the home of a son, Wilburn McCann in Arnold Heights. — Fisher Boardman Henry, 47, at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Lexington, Saturday morning.

Thursday, May 5, 1921

958 persons attended Sunday School at the four Protestant churches in Carlisle Sunday as follows: Christian, 472; Methodist, 331; Baptist, 80, Presbyterian, 75.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hedges of the county, a daughter on April 23. — To Mr. and Mrs. Neal Kerns of the county, a son on April 26.

MARRIED — A marriage license was issued at Paris to Miss Byra Green and Walter Snapp, both of Barterville. — Miss Adda Lee Flora and John Hart Peters on the 28th at Flemingsburg.

DIED — Lewis Gary, 48, at his home in Bourbon County last Friday. — Mrs. Lillie Ishmael Alexander, at her home on Stoney Creek after a year's illness. — Mrs. Florence Stephenson Atkinson, at her home at Miranda, Tuesday after several weeks' illness.

An editor's random thoughts . . .

Why learn to spell, anyhow?

By Warren R. Fisher Sr.

"I'm sorry that I spelled the word,
I hate to go above you."

One imagines forlorn little maids with downcast eyes don't apologize thus these days — if they still "turn each other down" even in the remotest of little red school houses — and we imagine they don't. In fact, from the vantage point of a country editor who gets "copy," wierd and wonderfully wrought more than often, from sundry folk who ought to know how to spell and don't, we would say that the gentle art of orthography is a lost art with the general public. Of course, now and then with the incidence of a free trip or something, we have spelling matches, but from the vantage point of a reader of copy, as is, we think they must "cram" for the match and immediately forget all they learned. If we published some of the stuff that comes to us as written and told you where it came from, well, do tell!

Oh, well, the poor male children — especially the big-boned and awkward ones — miss a lot of torture that those of us who were taught to chant and repeat the syllables of "incomprehensibility" had to undergo. The be-appointed ones, in the era of ginghams and hair a la pigtail, apparently enjoyed the ordeal — especially if there happened to be an audience — and spelled with certitude, grace and the staccato rattle of musketry. Those of us, of the corduroy pants and overgrown feet,

...stood a spell on one foot fust,
Then stood a spell on t'other,
An' on which one he felt the wust
He couldn' ha' told ye, nuther.

Oh, well, times change, but human nature never. They made the poor lads spell in the gay nineties, but now they are emancipated by the "sight-reading" and alleged spelling without pronouncing the syllables, and by a stenographer with a pocket dictionary hidden under her purse and lipstick, compact and Luckies in the top right-hand drawer of her desk. (Oh, well, have it your own way — some do walk a mile for 'em and some believe only one brand satisfies or that there is not a cough in a carload, to be fair to the industry that takes the poor farmer's weed and metamorphoses it into cough cures and fat reducers.)

But to get back to our mutton. What's the use of knowing how to spell these days, anyhow? When John Jones dictates to Nellie Smith and he doesn't know and she doesn't know (and why look it up?) and the only clue to Nellie's identity is the JJ-NS down in the left hand corner and to clear everyone's skirts — if any — "neverything, be marks it "dictated, but not read," why learn to spell? That is unless you are ambitious to become a proof reader — and they are born, gentle reader — born, not made. (And operator, have a care! If any word in this melange is misspelled, you are "it.")

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Hungry caterpillars

Armed Saturday morning with my trusty blowtorch, a 20-foot extension ladder, a large aluminum kettle and probably more zeal than common sense, I asked the better-half to accompany me to the three-in-one apple tree in the backyard — there to do battle with "tent" caterpillars.

They didn't like the heat and lost no time dropping off the tent or limb into the kettle, all went well until in reaching for the fourth tent I upended the kettle spilling caterpillars on the ground below. Anyway I finished off the fourth tent, then descended to do battle with the spillage.

After the morning exercise, I stopped by the postoffice and picked up the mail of mostly news releases; the following article seemed appropriate and I headed it "Better late than never $5.20"

Better late than never! Only $5.20

Ah, Spring! Crocuses bloom, robins sing, and millions of fuzzy, crawly caterpillars creep through forests and backyards, devouring leaves and spinning spidery threads.

Like crocuses and robins, the gypsy moth is a dependable sign of Spring.

Unlike crocuses and robins, the gypsy moth is an unwelcome guest that damages millions of acres of trees each year, not to mention the mess it can create around your home and property.

Though they hatch in late April or early May, the larvae nibble lightly and remain rather inconspicuous for the first few weeks. So there's still time to prepare a defense before this year's onslaught begins.

The USDA Forest Service suggests a four-part counterattack based on the idea that informed is forearmed.

First, you should get to know the enemy. Learning how the insect's behavior and appearance change as it passes through its life cycle will leave you better prepared to understand the damage it does. A publication called "The Gypsy Moth: An Illustrated Biography", Home and Garden Bulletin No. 225, provides color illustrations and descriptions of the insect's life stages, from egg to adult moth.

Next, it's time to face the facts. Just how much and what kind of damage does the gypsy moth do? A color-illustrated brochure called "Defoliation by the Gypsy Moth: How is Hurts Your Tree", Home and Garden Bulletin No. 223, gives you a clear understanding of what to expect if defoliation does occur.

Then you'll be ready to take action, and "The Homeowner and the Gypsy Moth: Guidelines for Control", Home and Garden Bulletin No. 227, gives you several useful suggestions on what the average person can do to assess

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Speeders Beware!

If the next state police cruiser you see is all-white and carries the legend, "State Trooper," in big, black letters on each side, believe it and slow down. The Kentucky State Police are retiring the old, familiar blue-and-white colors in favor of the new color scheme which is already making its presence known in several counties. Among the latest to get a close-up look at the new cruiser is Knox County, which is patrolled by KSP Trooper Ancil R. Hall of the Harlan Post. Hall was in Frankfort last week to hand over keys to his old blue-and-white to state Police Commissioner Marion D. Campbell before getting one of the newer models. — Photo submitted.

Letters from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

After living 48 years in Twin Falls, we are moving to another part of the state and have a change of address.

The new address: Mrs. B.F. Vice, P.O. Box 643, Cascade, Idaho 83611.

We love the Mercury, our home paper.

Mrs. B.F. Vice

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Let's take this time to let Blue Grass Industries know how we feel about appreciation day, April 24-25, 1981. We know of no other company that shows how they appreciate their personnel in so many ways.

Blue Grass Industries is run by humans with human faults like everyone else. They are not always right, but they must be right more than wrong or we wouldn't have a 312 member Thorobred Club. This club is made up of employees who have worked for Blue Grass for 15 years or more and here in Carlisle, we have some members who have served Blue Grass for 34 years.

The only people at Blue Grass who are not happy with their jobs are those who are not happy with themselves. These people should stop and take a close look at themselves, and at what Blue Grass has done for them. If they still aren't satisfied, they should take a second look because they need to look for a job somewhere that they can be happy.

Signed: June Wagoner, Sylvia Mitchell, Maxine Haley, Margaret Mitchell, Marlene Sparks, Shirley Fryman, Alma Rice, Carolyn McFarland, June Campbell, Patsy Klawitter, Fred Hammonds, Pauline Flora, Pusako Gore, Audrey E. Turney, Viola Fryman, Wayne Gray, Janice Sexton, Betty Sorrell.

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I would like to take this last time to tell the employees of B.G.I. why it is so important that you vote "yes" April 30. We need a union desperately because of the way they make a difference in the people.

If you will just stop and give a thought to what happened in Maysville. The girls down there fought for B.G.I. They voted a union out. What did they get for it. They lost their jobs and everything else. Do you think that if we vote the union out we will be any different from Maysville. Talk to some of the people at Maysville. Ask some of them how it feels to fight for a company and get repaid for it like they did. I know that you think you're lucky to have a job. Well, you're right. We are lucky to have a job, but is it wrong to try and better yourself. The Teamsters are the largest union since unions.

They will and can help us. They will not hurt us. It was told that two union organizers would be sitting on the ballot taking names and how you voted. This is just another one of B.G.I. ways of trying to scare you. We are back there to see that the election is fair and that no one votes who is not eligible. They say why pay someone to talk for you. We need someone to talk for us, the same way B.G.I. needs their union busters and so called attorneys to talk for them. They say come to them when you have a problem. Have you ever asked to see someone up front? I have, and I'm still waiting. Same as some of you. They don't have time for us. Teamsters do. So girls please think about it and use the only right you have and vote yes April 30.

Thank you,
Patricia Lyons
Rt. Carlisle

P.S. For instance, look what B.G.I. did to Shirley, then look what the union did for her! Who would you rather fight for you, B.G.I. or Teamsters. I'd say Teamsters.

To The Carlisle Mercury:

How long have you worked for Blue Grass Industries? 12 years.

Haven't you always taken home a paycheck? Half.

Have you ever had a deduction taken out of your check that did not benefit you? Yes.

Do you want to pay union dues? Yes.

Do you have the extra money to pay union dues each month? Yes.

Do you want someone other than Blue Grass Industries telling you what you have to do? Yes.

Will you know for sure how your dues are spent if the union does get in? I don't care.

Do you want to be out of work for no telling how long each time a union contract runs out? That's hogwash.

Do you know you cannot draw unemployment if the company does go on strike? It won't without my vote.

Do you know other firms do not want to hire you if the company you were working for is on strike? I don't want another job.

Do you know for sure if the union does go in you will get to keep your present job? I hope not.

Do you know for sure none of your present benefits will not be taken away from you? Yes.

Do you know for sure you will be able to keep your present P.W.A.? I hope not.

Put your money where it counts — in your own pocket, not some big shot union leader's. I'd rather put it in union pockets than B.G.I.'s pocket.

I don't know about you, but I say we are doing O.K.! Some are but not me.

Vote "yes" April 30, 1981.

Shirley Robinson
216 High Street
Carlisle, Ky. 40311

Mercury vapors

Continued from page 2

the situation and, if necessery, protect their property from gypsy moth damage.

Finally, it wouldn't be fair to lay all the blame for forest defoliation on the fuzzy back of one insect. The gypsy moth has help, and it would be to our advantage to become familiar with these pests, too. "Major Hardwood Defoliators of the Eastern United States", Home and Garden Bulletin No. 224, describes eight defoliating insects and details their life stages, using color photographs for illustration.

All four brochures are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price and stock number of each are listed below.

Titles: "The Gypsy Moth: An Illustrated Biography, G-225", stock number 001-000-03850-8, $1.10; "Defoliation by the Gypsy Moth: How It Hurts Your Tree, G-223", stock number 001-000-3747-1, $.90; "The Homeowner and the Gypsy Moth: Guidelines for Control, G-227", stock number 001-000-03950-4, $2; and "Major Hardwood Defoliators of the Eastern United States, G-224", stock number 001-000-03852-4, $1.20.

If there are "tents" in your prize apple trees or other ornamentals I wouldn't wait for the books, should you decide to order them, this pesky insect will defoliate (strip) your prize overnight!

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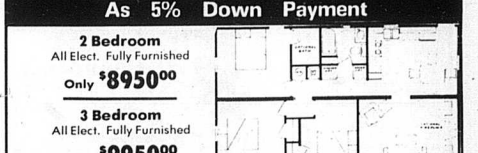

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