

Opinion

A formal invitation

We received a response to last week's editorial questioning the absence of the local funeral homes from the previous week of public meetings of the Fiscal Court and the City Council concerning alternative ways of offering ambulance services to the public.

A representative of one of those funeral homes called our office last week and informed us that he was not aware that the meeting was open to the public until he read that information in the Mercury Thursday evening and by that time other commitments for the evening had already been made. In addition, he said that no one from either the city or the county had asked for his help with this problem.

O.K., we guess we'll buy that. This time, we encourage the fiscal court and the city council to personally invite the local funeral homes to the next meeting in which ambulance service is to be discussed. As we said last week,

these persons know more about the day-to-day operation of an ambulance service than anyone in the county. It would be stupid to have a valuable aid in the present decision making process.

Provided that invitation is delayed, we would like to invite the local morticians to attend the next meeting concerning the ambulance crisis in the county ourselves. We remind everyone that all meetings of our local government bodies are open public meetings (excepting certain issues arising out of individual personnel matters).

The local funeral homes have served this county well in the past. They have provided ambulance services to our citizens at their own financial loss. We are thankful for that magnanimous gesture. This tradition of community service could be well carried on by assisting local residents in investigating alternative means of providing ambulance service.



Agree or not Looking for Mr. Scapegoat, or a note to Governor Brown

By S.C. Van Curen

The one bright spot remaining in Kentucky's fiscal firmament is the 1981-82 Retirement System that was called upon by Gov. John Young Brown Jr. to contribute \$9 million toward the state's projected budget deficit this year.

This is a part of the \$100 million sought from all state agencies whose budgets were trimmed about five percent across the board last week. Since Teachers Retirement gets its budget funding "back-loaded" instead of being spread out through the budget year, a check for \$9 million was written in the General Fund. The other half million was reduction from the operating budget. The \$9 million was contribution toward funding the state retirement, the part the state matches each year.

It was used better financial position that the legislature thought the more could be used better elsewhere and left it up to succeeding legislative sessions to make up these deficits. However, the 1978 legislature broke the link between the state and the state employees Retirement System.

The Judicial Retirement System, created by the 1960 legislature, was also expanded. He said the state has always contributed the overmatch to the state employees Retirement System. However, not all of this is to be laid at the feet of the federal government. Gov. Brown had to reduce last year's budget for each rank and experience for a term of 185 days.

It is just starting at a patient for several weeks, suffering with a broken hip.

As a clause in the state budget provided that the governor may deal with budget shortages and surpluses without calling the legislature into session. This practice has gone on for years. The average salary paid any rank of teachers shall be at least equivalent to the amount set forth in legislated budget schedule for each rank and experience for a term of 185 days.

What Lt. Governor?

Lt. Gov. Dave O'Neal of Illinois is so tired of sitting around in his office with nothing to do that he has decided to quit and look for more challenging work. This should be an example to lieutenant governors in other states who are trying to look busy in jobs that are just as superfluous as the one in Illinois.

Mr. O'Neal should not regard his public position as a total loss. Since that the constitution makes no provision for filling a vacancy in his office, the state will save his \$45,000 a year salary for the next 18 months, until a new lieutenant governor is sworn in.

Letters

To the Carlisle Mercury: Enclosed is a check for \$10. Please send the Mercury to Mrs. George Dudley Perry, Box 6342, at Louisville, Ky. We were born and raised in Nicholas County and love to read about the folks

and what goes on in Carlisle. Thank you in advance. Florine Mitchell Anderson, Ind. P.S. Please get it in the mail as soon as possible. Her birthday is August 29. Thanks again.

The Idle Rambler

by James C. Smith

After the attempted assassination of President Reagan earlier this year, Tom Shales of the Washington Post raised a very interesting question to the gun control forces who blamed at least in part, television for spreading the idea that guns are as much a part of American life as, well, television itself.

But Shales argued that what television does right now is not a gun cult, but a nut cult. His commentary is so interesting that I must yield my column's space for the week.

In the past few years, the content of TV talk shows and of informational variety hours like "That's Incredible!" has drifted farther and farther into the Twilight Zone. Television is becoming not just a sleazy midway but a freaked-out sideway. It may be time to renege TV's open-door policy on semi-terrestrial beings.

There is no way to control how a nutty person sitting at home sees what he sees on an innocuous TV fare. But what happens when a nutty person sitting at home sees a steady stream of nutty people on the air - especially when they're given the same respect and deference as those who appear to be dealing from a full deck?

Sometimes TV gives the impression that the country is moving into Southern California. In Los Angeles, morning talk shows are littered with astrologers, psychics, swamis and would-be telekinetics. They share space with movie stars and rock pluggers and the spray-dried hosts in this environment of nuttiness, the serious and the kooky are made equal; television certifies almost any brand of eccentricity as marketable and legitimate.

In their decision-making that the Tamara Rand debacle occurred on Ted Turner's Cable News Network. Ms. Rand's allegedly amazing predictions regarding the Reagan shooting were revealed to have been taped after the shooting took place. Both ABC and NBC aired the Rand show and unwittingly helped perpetuate the hoax.

Roger Ailes, executive producer of the NBC "Tomorrow" show, says he thinks "the Rand thing may have been the best thing that ever happened, because a lot of those psychics are fakes, and things like this destroy people's confidence in them."

"Personally," he says, "maybe you're right they give them air time? But as a producer I think, the Rand thing may have been the best thing that ever happened, because a lot of those psychics are fakes, and things like this destroy people's confidence in them."

But does every viewpoint deserve a chance? A spokesman for the hugely successful "Phil Donahue Show" says Donahue hardly ever entertains psychics and mystics. But Donahue has put a child molester, a Nazi, and a spokesman for the Ku Klux Klan on the air. While people are free to hold hateful or anti-social views, there is no mandate to circulate them through television. The problem is, they attract viewers, that builds ratings, and that's what runs the system.

CNN has at least temporarily banished the talk-show host who aided Mrs. Rand in the national deception. But what was CNN, ostensibly a "news" network, doing with all those psychics on the air in the first place? Psychics had been featured more than once on CNN's moon-viewing, Las Vegas-based talk show. This sinuous "compendy" and "contributor" to an environment in which the crazy is elevated to authority figure.

Of course the surest way to protect yourself from being called nutty is to describe your body and beliefs as a religion. Then it's supposed to be uncatchable. Thus did the host of a nationally syndicated "religious" talk show recently allow viewers that God had spoken to him - personally - the night before the presidential election and told him Reagan was going to win. Oh boy. We have to ask ourselves if the make-it-up business isn't becoming too much of a growth industry and if television isn't fostering craziness with its eager-to-please response. It's more than gaudy pieces of pandering pulp. It means just after revelations that ABC executives had employed a psychic to guide them

Down with dumb TV can spell relief and I don't want a V-8

If small pressure groups such as the Coalition for Better Television can impose its tastes on the American public, then there is still hope for the Coalition Against Dumb Television, of which my wife is neighborhood president and I am in charge of all donations.

We've thought too much about our group succeeding until we heard the Coalition for Better Television was getting results. That we are proud on the subjects of sex and violence and so of don't trust a touch of violence and now of an influx of rape and so on. Life is full of both; it's knowing how to handle one when that separates the men from the boys.

We're simply against dumb television. We define dumb television as any daytime serial with an unwanted pregnancy or other disease, Brazilian soccer, news programs where the announcers giggle like school children, any crime show in which you know who did it or don't care, any situation comedy that must use canned laughter to cheer you in when to smile, any celebrity sporting event, any game show contestants, and the Dow Jones averages.

Back in the days of Sid Caesar and Milton Berle we compiled a list of sponsors of such shows and have been boycotting them ever since. It is an approach that has worked and has not been an easy one.

My wife and I cannot get our horoscopes or the news on television. I have not had a second cup of coffee in 18 years. It won't keep me awake and I have lost all respect for Robert Young since he quit practicing medicine and started practicing good. It's terrible.

My health is terrible. When I catch cold, I cannot get relief. I spell relief r-e-l-i-e-f. And, if I have a headache, my aspirin is only two-thirds as strong as the aspirin I cannot stomach due to my high principles. And what's more, I can never get in the bathroom when I need to, even though we have two bathrooms. Any woman can be up on two bathrooms on any given night. I am not concerned if you can see what I am worried about my Calvin Klein's because I wear only boxers (or at best barrettes) and I'd be overalls on a Friday evening. I could've had a V-8, but the last one I owned was a gas hog, so not to get a V-8.

My wife doesn't enjoy 24-hour liquidation, not even with those gross production. The newly elected board of directors of the Carlisle Commercial Club met Tuesday afternoon and selected the following officers: Sam T. Howe, president; W. C. Clark, vice president; S. C. Vaughn, secretary, and W. F. Hunt, treasurer.

MARRIED - Miss Elizabeth Potts, 14, and Mr. Clarence Thomas, 21, both of Millersburg, will be married Thursday night at his home near Oxford in Scott County. Mrs. Bel Hildner, 14, will be the officiant. The bride is the daughter of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington. The groom is the son of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington. The bride is the daughter of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington. The groom is the son of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington.

Memory Lane

Friday, August 11, 1921 One of the largest crowds seen in Carlisle on court day for many months was here here. Little stock was offered with the exception of horses, and the market was low. The principal attraction of the day was the sale of the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

Joseph R. Shannon, 74, native of Nicholas County, died Thursday night at his home near Oxford in Scott County. Mrs. Bel Hildner, 14, will be the officiant. The bride is the daughter of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington. The groom is the son of Mr. W. C. Collier, 37, and Mrs. Mary Hildner, 37, of Lexington.

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Special Feeder Cattle Sale Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. Farmers Stockyards, Inc. Flemingsburg, Ky.

RUSS MEYER

When he drains college, she calls a plumber who drinks. We are both ashamed of our tattletale girl and I'd wear a red bandanna, and do our usual work in the back yard with a garden hose. Both our kids had cavities and bad breath and we didn't fight about it. If they wanted to brush with a slippery skin twig, we let them. I never run.

Southern States holds membership

Meeting July 31 Dixie Pryman Alton Quenton Moreland of Nicholas County were elected to the local board of directors at the Southern States Annual Membership meeting held in Carlisle on July 31. Over 300 stockholders and their families attended the session.

Charles Martin was named chairman of the local board, while Bobby Sexton was chosen as vice-chairman. Elected to the local Southern States Farm Home Advisory Committee were Mrs. Franklin J. White, Mrs. David Sneed, both of Nicholas County, and Mrs. Bobby Sexton was chosen as chairman of the committee.

Frank R. Gohrke of Lexington, a member of the Southern States Cooperative's regional staff, reported on the annual Southern States operations. The report pointed out that farmers now represent only about three percent of the population and they must exert extra effort to make their voices heard in the halls of government.

The report on local operations and representation was given by Mrs. Stacey, manager of Southern States Carlisle Cooperative. She reported that total volume for their operation for the past year ending Dec. 31, 1980 was about \$25,000, while total volume for the first six months of 1981 was about \$15,000.

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