

Opinion

Space versus time

Don't look now, but by reading this you may be participating in an electronic doomsday to extinction. At least according to Ted Turner, who owns the Cable News Network. He recently told representatives of the cable TV industry that America's newspapers will be out of business in 10 years, cable TV will be 85 to 90 percent of U.S. homes by 1990, and cable station owners are going to be the most powerful people in the world.

Turner's hypothesis is not an example of dispassionate journalism at its best. The desire for power may resemble the megalomania of William Randolph Hearst in 1906, when yellow journalism got America into a war with Spain. Newspapers have gotten more civilized since that era. But the threat to newspapers from cable and other new technologies should not be taken for granted. For although newspapers need not be half cable TV, and some are even getting into the cable business; it is clear that the new technologies may present a challenge to the role of newspapers. The claim that the print media will be pure cable-de-ko.

What can cable do that newspapers can't? "What can't cable do?" proponents exclaim. The electronic wizard can call up information instantaneously. One can find live coverage of Senate committee hearings in Washington, or press a key for the price of a stock on the New York Exchange. Hungry? Review the menus from restaurants. Flirt with a date and the gizmo will order your lunch, and eat it for you. Well, not quite - although malfunctioning computer terminals in their homes, not act as new editors. In a democracy the possibility of all individuals having equal and direct access to the founts of information has a powerful appeal. Why not abolish the middleman in the newspaper?

The first question is where the news would come from. Wire services often pick up their news from local newspapers that get it from reporters who stop away from the newsstand, photography and go out and confront people with questions and witness events with their own eyes. Not always. Perhaps not enough: Newspapers have an exciting time competing with television and radio to provide the latest news. But newspapers provide more news than any other media, and in far greater depth. We create the record. Our record is not perfect, but we are the only media which consistently provides space for the public to respond, in letters to the editor. If the newspaper disappears, and with it the editorial board, will the video record be more accurate? More responsive?

The battle between the video media and the print media is the battle between time and space. TV occupies time; newspapers take up space. Because of the reduction in state and local Congress on the nightly TV news, you wait until the item comes on the screen, if it comes. And then you watch the images speed past. Or, on cable TV, you see the same congressional meeting at length, ad nauseum.

Newspapers exist in space, while newsprint, a new hole which editors and reporters must fill each issue. When the reader wants that legislative report, he glances through the pages, takes as much as little time as he wants to read what he wants. He may pause to search the rows, or skip to a better story. Americans increasingly complain about not having enough time. Perhaps they should examine their TV habits and see where that time is going.

Literally don't take the time. Newspapers are being replaced by electronic news. Mr. Turner? At that time in Turner's predicted future when people want to find out what's going on while they're riding a bus, or sitting on a park bench, they will lug their 100 pound "portable" cable terminal on their lap and wait interminably for the tidbit to flash by. Some enterprising reporter might get the bright idea to beef up the terminal on their lap and wait interminably for the tidbit to flash by. Some enterprising reporter might get the bright idea to beef up the terminal on their lap and wait interminably for the tidbit to flash by. Some enterprising reporter might get the bright idea to beef up the terminal on their lap and wait interminably for the tidbit to flash by.

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Agree or not Do Brown's payroll reductions 'Merit' such unqualified praise?

By S.C. Van Curen
There are two sides to the controversy over the reduction in state pay for personnel by the Brown Administration - the employees and the administration. A total of 1600 Merit System employees were dismissed and 40 of them were ordered returned by the Personnel Board after hearings to their positions or similar ones and paid back wages. Only pay totaled more than \$100,000. 311 employees appeared they dismissed. Of this number, 206 cases have been heard and 100 were reinstated. 35 cases have not been heard and 60 or 70 appeals are pending. Transcripts are being prepared on the 30 cases. Mike Robinson, deputy personnel commissioner, said last night that Robinson said the number of 210 had been reinstated or placed in other positions under a placement policy ordered by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. "It's almost impossible to track down the number reinstated or re-employed." The big list of state employees is

Down Memory Lane Bill Dollins is new sheriff

Thursday, January 1, 1982
At the December meeting of the Kentucky State Commissioners convention held in Louisville, A.V. "Doc" Allison was elected legislative committee representative from the 13th Congressional District. Bill Dollins assumed his newly elected four year term as Nicholas County sheriff on Monday, succeeding John Anderson. Robert Talbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Talbert, was saluted as the "Star of Today" of the Carlisle High School in the December issue of the school bulletin, "The Mirror Review." The home of Ray Hilditch at Miranda, near Morefield, was destroyed by fire Friday night about 11:30. Origin of the fire was unknown. DIED - To Mr. and Mrs. Garette Livingston, son of Dr. 24 at the Nicholas County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hilditch, son of Dr. 24 at the Nicholas County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Clark of Lottsville, Ind. a daughter, Cynthia Louise, Dec. 30. To Mr. and Mrs. Omar Mitchell, a daughter, Barbara Jean, Dec. 28 at Nicholas County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Butler Johnson, a son, Lloyd Herbert, Dec. 27 at Nicholas County Hospital. MARRIED - Miss Ann Hampton and Miss Nancy Parvis and David Martin, Dec. 26. Assembly of God Church. MARRIED - Dr. Ernie Martin, Mt. Oriskany, Ohio. - Ed Wallace, St. Bourbon County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. George W. Moore, Jr., of Clinton, Monday at Harlan County Hospital. To Mrs. Orestia, 90, Paris, Sunday at the Hensley Nursing Home in Lexington. Mrs. Nancy Metcalf Norton, 68, widow of William Metcalf, Sunday at a Lexington hospital.

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Ed page

It is better to give than receive...because fruit cakes are forever
Having a fruit cake for Christmas is the getting a water mattress in the morning. You appreciate the mattress, but don't know how to use it. It's the same with the fruit cake. You get it, and in the case of the fruit cake, you get it with a lot of extra stuff. That is why a real concern is the life expectancy of a fruit cake. You have to know how to use it. There is no corner so remote, no island so damp, no attic or balcony so high that you could store it in, after a subtle polite interlude, declare the cake inedible and throw it away. The thing gets better with age, which should happen to nothing except good fortune. For receiving a fruit cake for Christmas is not unlike receiving a note that your son starts with the \$100,000 that 10 percent interest on Dec. 31. It costs a shakedown on your whole holiday. It is un-American. In a land where ostentation is praised for everything, it is un-American. How, then, dear friends, to cope? Obviously, the easiest way is to give the fruit cake back to whoever gave it to you. Profound dictation, however, that you send said the following Christmas to do so, and if in the meantime you have been filling up your savings account, you are able to wait that long. The only thing giving it back means. "This looks so delicious that you're not some one and take some of it." Let us hope you are not getting even with the gift. The same old line for cutting it into pieces and leaving it on the table at a party. There's a chance it will be eaten by

starving guests after the shrimp and chowchow has disappeared. Eating it is dangerous, not so much for the eater as for the effect on your future. People who like fruit cake are a great demand. There is a waiting list for their services, and so persistent are the demands that you must be prepared for them to get unlimited phone numbers and have their own homes. Your best hope lies in starting your fruit cake business early. You can start with a few dollars, and in a year or two you can be a millionaire. You can start with a few dollars, and in a year or two you can be a millionaire. You can start with a few dollars, and in a year or two you can be a millionaire.

Letters
To The Carlisle Mercury: I am writing to you to express my appreciation for the opportunity to bring warm holiday greetings to your readers from the faculty, staff and students of the Regent of Morehead State University. We are proud to be the only public university in this region of Kentucky and to strive each day to respond to the needs of the people we serve. We realize that critical issues face public education at all levels in 1982 and we are determined to continue to improve this institution's nearly 60-

The Idle Rambler

by James C. Smith
'Twas the night before the night before Christmas. All was quiet at home as I sat about making up a pillow and blanket for my bed. As I brought the fiery brew to a boil, a disturbing thought struck me: "I haven't bought Tammy anything for Christmas." I thought about the busy schedule I had for Christmas Eve, and could only conclude that I had about two hours to complete my shopping. I grabbed my roommate, we jumped in the car and sped off toward town. Arriving in Carlisle, all the stores looked closed. "The malls in Lexington are open late," he said. "Yeah," I said, and pressed the accelerator. "I'm in the 'Athens of the South' via a chartered Chevrolet 747." I screeched to a stop in the parking lot for Fayette Mall, thanked the man upstairs for keeping the store open, and briskly stroled into the closest store. I laboriously and painstakingly searched for just the right gift. After about a minute and a half, I found it - a nice gray skirt. "Plain, nondescript," I thought, "will go with anything."

Following gardening folklore, home gardeners have been planting marigolds next to vegetables for years and for years this has put down on tomato hornworms, Colorado potato beetles, green-apple aphids and assorted other bugs. Scientists, however, are now getting interested in the phenomenon, and the first thing they want to do, of course, is improve on it. Professor David Baker, an organic chemist at Queens College in New York, may look like any other gardener growing potatoes, but his purpose is to produce marigold extract for commercial use as an insect repellent. Baker's vision doesn't have quite the aesthetic appeal of a field sown with flowers, but as he points out, a patch of marigolds blocking access to a field "makes it hard to harvest a crop." It would certainly be nice to complain about the form in which Baker finally delivers his flower power, when the alternative is pesticides. We wish him the sweet smell of success.

RUSS MEZ

An editor's random thoughts...
By Warren R. Fisher Sr.
January 30, 1982
An unbroken week of snow-covered fields, like that ending under a misty drizzle or rain, as this is written Monday, is rare in this section of Kentucky. Youngsters' sleds have had great sport; oldsters have grumbled. The snows and donned overcoats; a few have given more than a passing glance to the quiet beauty of snow-covered field and woodland and fewer still have sensed the beauty, the poetry and wonder of the minute drifting particles of which the snow blanket is woven. "There is much to be learned in a snowy field than volumes can tell," writes William Beebe in his "Log of the Sun." But one must have the will to see, as well as the eyes and use of his or her stop to listen to a winter walk. Nature, for us, is dead; Spring a pale dream seen across the wastes of winter. Let us look at a snowy field through the eyes of a naturalist: "There is the tangle of foot prints to unravel, the history of the pastimes and foragings and trophies of the past night writ large and unmistakable. Though the sun now shines brightly, we can well imagine the cold darkness of last night. But let us take a bird's-eye view of things, from a hard hat. The snow is laid upon a board or upon the clean, dry crystals and see what wonders we have passed by all our lives. "Take two square feet of snow with a stream through the center, and we have an epitome of geological processes and conditions. With chin upon mitters and mittens upon the crust, the eyes open up a new world. The half-covered river becomes a monster glacier-fed stream, rushing down through grand canyons and caves, hung with icy stalactites. Bit by bit the walls are undermined and massive icebergs become detached and are whirled away. As for mountains, we have the snow in plenty and with every strong gust of wind. And all every gust their numbers increase, the harvest of snow, being gathered here, upon barren ground. No wonder the stream flows in from view next summer, when the myriad seeds from spring begin to fight upward for light and air. And now for a look at the white coverlet that

so nobly teaches us the ABC's of how to construct a snowdrift or to make a snowman. The best time to give a snowdrift is in the afternoon. If you ask an attractive young woman to give you a snowdrift, she will happen to meet you from Key West. If you ask a young man to give you a snowdrift, he will happen to meet you from Key West. If you ask a young man to give you a snowdrift, he will happen to meet you from Key West. If you ask a young man to give you a snowdrift, he will happen to meet you from Key West.

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1981 FARM PRODUCTION

1981 FARM INCOME

Thursday, January 1, 1982
James Arthur Young, 58, Pittsburg, died Wednesday at the home he was riding left the road and turned over