Opinion

An editor's random thoughts...

This, That and T'other

The Tides of Spring

A page from the diary of a country editor

By Warren R. Fisher Sr.

To me, half waking, as dawn etched wanly the drawn shades, there came to ears long unused to the music of day's breaking a bird note far off and somehow familiar. Drowsily I waited its return, but only the muted chirping of sparrows came and the distant bubbling of a winter wren. A dream I thought, a dream of spring come again — when close at hand there came the plaintive, wistful call of a robin. And straightway there flowed through me a feeling of well being, of faith justified, a faith sorely tested by weeks of ice and snow, when Nature seemed dead beyond all resurrection and icy silence marked the coming of the dawn.

And now it comes again, this lonesome, familiar call, from the dry and naked branches of my maples, opening up for my dreaming vistas of freshly turned furrows and the odor of the good earth, green veils of the willows, valiant thrust of the tiny snowdrop, greening fields, drone of early bees in the furry catkins of the maples, flame of the red bud and the first-heard carol of a meadow lark drifting down the wind. Sir Robin of the burnished breast is for me a very magician, when his call comes lonesome and wistful from the bare branches, making audible for a moment the soft, distant footfall of returning spring, while yet we draw cosily to roaring fires and though snow may fly and icy winds may roar between. This pioneer of the thrush family, heralding the coming of sweeter singers, speaks for me as clearly as "the frolic wind that breathes the spring" of the setting in of the vernal tides. Ever from today I know this tide will advance, receding from the bite of icy winds, but ever advancing, till curve of swallow wing heralds its near approach and the lovely, liquid vesper song of a catbird marks the high tide of another spring.

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Today the catkins of the pussywillow show like tiny silver spears and the golden sheen of the weeping willows in my garden foretell the coming of that shimmering veil of green which this tree casts about itself when all others yet rattle their bare branches of tight-wrapped buds. How vigorously alive is that Nature, which a scant ten days ago was wrapped in its winding sheet of ice and snow — grey, dead, lifeless to human eyes — but under bark and bud, down in the dark earth life pulsed, tense, waiting for the gentle whisper, the warm breath that calls to resurrection and fulfillment. Might we not call it faith, this certainty of fulfillment, this inexorable readiness for the return of the life-giving tides of spring? For me, at least, this ever recurring cycle bolsters a wavering faith and hints an immutable purpose as never pulpit or printed page may do. The rise of sap in a tree, the valiant thrust of crocus and snowdrop, as the tide whispers distantly, the whirling seeds of the maple, delicately winged, cunningly curved, whirling out and away from the parent tree into the sunlight and a chance at fulfillment — these tell me more clearly than books and sermons may of that toward which men have stretched imploring arms, puzzling their minds to solve the riddle of it all with wistful wonderings.

"My faith is all a doubtful thing,
Wove on a doubtful loom,
Until there comes, each showery spring,
A cherry tree in bloom.
"And Christ who died upon a tree
That men had stricken bare,
Comes beautifully back to me,
In blossoms everywhere."

*****

Wistful little red-breast, you have brought me today a whisper of the approaching tides of spring. Tomorrow snow may blanket the fields and the air bite shrewdly, but today I have heard the whisper. And right soon I know the grass will begin to green mightily and the winds of the first spring month to sweep vigorously to make ready for April and her water pails. One day before long I shall mark a point of gold on the great lawn of some old homestead, and granted sunshine for a few days, this gold will soon be scattered in spreadthrift fashion over the freshioning turf. Approaching I shall find this gold nodding and dancing in the breeze and coming near I shall find it to be a very treasure of the earth's awakening, cool and fragrant with the breath of spring. I shall find —

"Daffodils that come before the swallow dares,
And take the winds of March with beauty."

And I shall, listening, hear distinctly the murmur of the Tides of Spring.

Agree or Not

Integration problem plagues KSU

By S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT — After more than 20 years Kentucky's higher education system is still wrestling with the problem of integration of both student and faculty under federal threats of monetary penalties that run into the millions.

Strange as it may seem, Kentucky State University at Frankfort, the state's predominately black university, is the chief target of the federal order that also says the others are malingerers in integrating their predominately white faculties.

The charge against KSU is that its student body, full-time day students, hasn't attracted enough white students.

Last week a committee of the Council of Higher Education turned down a proposal to recommend merging KSU with another state university. KSU was founded in 1886 as a land grant college for the blacks when segregation prevailed in the South. It continued as such until the Day Law was ruled unconstitutional in 1954 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

KSU continued through the early 1960s as a predominately black school with enrollment of less than 1,000 until the late 1960s. In 1962 it had less than 700 enrollment with less than a dozen white full-time students, and more than 50 percent of its student body was from out of state.

Truth of the matter is KSU remained as the stepchild of Kentucky's education system until the equal rights drive of the blacks in the 1960s got some attention through court orders at the national level.

The federal demand seems to be to get the student body integrated on about the same percentage as the population of the state. That means KSU would have to be more than 80 percent white and the other universities would have to increase their black enrollment to an equal percentage. In other words, the name of the game is numbers.

Unfortunately, early planners of the higher education system concentrated the university system too close together in the Central Kentucky area.

The University of Louisville is a natural from the historical standpoint as is the University of Kentucky at Lexington, but why put the black college in Frankfort and another college at Richmond, just 25 miles east of Lexington? We have four universities in a 100-mile stretch and the others in the system are scattered on the borders of the state. The answer of course is politics of the time.

The black alumni of KSU want to retain the tradition of their alma mater and rightly so, but it is going to be almost impossible if the federal government insists upon its numbers game.

A student, black or white, can enroll in any state university he chooses, and this would seem to be a satisfactory answer. Many students attend the university or college closest to home, many for economy and reasons of convenience. The Jefferson County Community College and the University of Louisville have the highest percentage of black enrollment, excepting KSU, because 36 percent of the black population of Kentucky is in Jefferson County. These students want to stay home and go to school.

The federal government doesn't like this and insists on equal percentages throughout the higher education system. At the same time, the government is saying that the universities as institutions must have the same opportunity. In other words, KSU must be treated equally with the Universities of Kentucky and Louisville. This would weaken and destroy the entire university system.

Back in 1962 this column suggested that KSU be merged with Eastern Kentucky State University at Richmond. I got a bill introduced in the 1962 legislature to that effect. I knew it would never get out of committee, but I knew it would draw attention to the problem of little money for KSU as the stepchild.

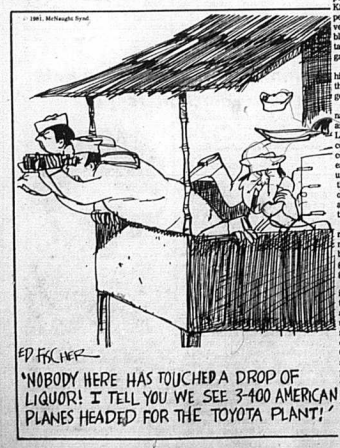
Everybody got busy. The black alumni wanted to preserve their school. The educational establishment wanted to placate the blacks and retain the status quo. A study was ordered and the recommendation was that KSU remain a predominately black school. It has made some progress in the years since then and can serve a very valuable purpose by specializing in a curriculum for government employees or prospective employees.

In 20 years since 1961, the enrollment at KSU has about tripled and remains the highest per student cost school in the state.

Let me explode one more torpedo 20 years later:

Move KSU to Jefferson County to the old Kentucky Southern College Campus that belongs to the University of Louisville and move Jefferson Community College to Frankfort. Louisville blacks can go to KSU and anyone can attend the community college here.

You save both campuses and put them to maximum use.



Down Memory Lane

Southern Bell honors employee

Thursday, March 2, 1961

Miss Sandra Cooper, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Cooper and a Nicholas County High School junior, was crowned the 1961 Basketball Queen Friday night, Feb. 24 at the last home game of the season.

An automobile driven by Hord Crouch was struck by an L&N diesel Saturday afternoon at the Dorseyville crossing during a heavy storm. Two passengers were slightly injured.

Harry Galbraith of Route Four, Cynthiana, reported that a ewe on his farm gave birth to a freak lamb that has four front legs. The lamb is able to get around very well.

Cadet Sgt. Tobitt Elder, member of Roller Rifles, the crack drill unit of Augusta Military Academy, and Cadet Capt. Adjutant Chris Horsey, executive commander, received a winning trophy for the unit in competition with all military and naval academies and high schools with cadet corps from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, for best drill unit and best marching unit.

Dan Straw, sixth grade student at Carlisle City School, won a $25 U.S. Savings Bond for writing the best Soil Conservation Essay in the county.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. J. Patrick Conley a son, Feb. 27 in Balboa Heights, Canal Zone. — To Mr. and Mrs. Bobby A. Bowles a daughter, Pamela Kay, Feb. 20 at the Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Saundra Sue Snow of Springfield, Ohio and Rondall Lee Meadows of Lexington, Jan. 28 in Springfield.

DIED — Alex H. Calvert, 54, former state legislator and past president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Sunday night in Maysville. — Turner T. Thomas, Wednesday at the Good Samaritan Hospital. — Avery Hamm, 47, Nicholas County native, last Sunday at his home in Tipp City, Ohio. — L.D. Honican, 84, native of Nicholas County, Thursday at his home in Paris. — Ray H. Snapp Sr., Bath County native, Feb. 22 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — William David (Judge) Ross, 76, retired Nicholas County merchant, Sunday at the Harrison Memorial Hospital. — Adah Lee Hughes, 58, Nicholas County farmer, Saturday at the Nicholas County Hospital. — Roscoe Underwood, 59, Jessamine County native, Monday at a Lexington hospital.

Thursday, February 27, 1941

Miss Drusilla Campbell, who lives on Locust Street, this city, was honored at a dinner Thursday at the Feeback Hotel by the Southern Bell Telephone Company and local employees in recognition of her 32 years of service as a company employee. Miss Campbell retired on Jan. 21.

Dr. W.G. Irvin broke ground Tuesday for the erection of a modern brick veneer residence on his lot on Sycamore Street. Dr. Irvin and family plan to move from Mt. Sterling to the new home by July 1.

Neighbors and friends gave Mrs. R.K. Beatty a surprise birthday supper Monday night in honor of her 62nd birthday.

Approximately 900 automobile licenses have been sold up until Wednesday afternoon, it was announced by County Clerk John F. Sugg. Time expires on automobile licenses March 1, and those that have not gotten their license are urged to do so at once.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Allie Clinkenbeard at their home in the east end a son on Feb. 20. He has been named Jack Coburn Clinkenbeard. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Durham of Lexington, a son. The baby has been named John Price. Mr. Durham was formerly of Carlisle.

MARRIED — Miss Edna Mae Maybrier, Nicholas County, and Leland Stanford Jones, Fleming County, at the Christian Church parsonage by Rev. Estal L. Taylor on Friday, Feb. 21.

DIED — Rondo William Bowles, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bowles of the Myers Station Pike. — Miss Katie A. Kane, 58, died at her home in Paris last Wednesday evening. — B.D. Knox, 54, prominent Carlisle educator, died at his home Monday morning. — Lewis W. Wills, 72, died at his home on the Wheelers Mill Road Wednesday morning. — C.N. McDonnell, formerly of this city, died at his home in Columbus, Ohio.

Letters from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Enjoy greeting my hometown paper very much but you missed me four times this past year and twice I only received the outside section.

Realize oversights do happen but am very disappointed when I don't receive it, or else just a part.

Have a good year and many thanks.

An old school-mate.

Marie Hunter Adams

Kentucky Afield

By John Wilson

The 1980-81 hunting seasons are coming to an end. Rabbit and squirrel seasons closed Feb. 15, leaving grouse hunting as about the only opportunity to get in some shooting.

But you'd better hurry, because grouse season will end Feb. 28. Then you'll have to wait for the groundhogs to come on the scene for the April spring turkey season (April 18-30), whichever comes first.

Reports from across the state indicate rabbit hunters did pretty well this season and quail hunters, while still having nothing to write home about, were nevertheless finding more coveys than they have in the last couple of years.

With halfway decent weather, quail numbers should continue to climb. Biologists predicted that it would take around five years for quail to recover from the winter of '78, so maybe next year.

If the results from Ballard County are any indication of the way waterfowl hunting in general went, goose hunters had a pretty good year. Hunters took around 9,000 geese in the "Ballard Zone," that portion of Ballard County that requires hunters to report their harvest. This figure includes 2,300 geese from the Ballard Wildlife Management Area. Last year, less than 4,000 geese were taken from the Ballard Zone.

Next year's hunting seasons will be set at the March 1-2 meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. We should have dates, limits and the regulations on non-migratory species after that date. Dove, duck, geese, woodcock and other migratory game bird seasons, which are set within federal guidelines, will be set in mid or late summer.

We do however, have one hunting application deadline to announce now. Because of a turkey stocking project at Land Between the Lakes, the portion of this TVA-managed recreation area north of US 68 will be closed to turkey hunting.

Because this closure will cut the area open to hunting on the Kentucky portion of LBL in half, biologists there feel that it may be necessary to limit the number of hunters.

Therefore, advanced applications will be required for the April 8-17 and April 25-May 3 turkey hunts. Apply by letter (a maximum of four names) and make sure your letter gets mailed before March 6. You will be notified whether or not your name was drawn by March 23.

Applications should be mailed to Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, KY 42231. For additional information about the turkey hunt, write LBL at the above address or call (502) 924-5602.

IN QUOTES

* * *

A shark stores all its fat in its liver.

* * *

India's Ganges River starts out in an ice cave 10,300 feet above sea level.

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OFF THE WALL

Bluejackets nick Thorobreds 65-64

By Peggy Stewart and Meg Conley

The Nicholas County Bluejackets nicked the Harrison County Thorobreds Saturday night at home with a score of 65-64.

David McGuffey started the game with a field goal attempt. Markland got the rebound tying up the ball. Markland tipped to Barry Bretz, who returned the ball to Markland. Bretz got the rebound and tied the ball up, tipping it to the Thorobreds. The first two points were scored by the Thorobreds with 7:17 in the quarter. Nicholas knocked the ball out of bounds, returning it into Thorobred hands. They scored two more points. McGuffey turned the ball over and the Thorobreds scored once again, 6-0. Nicholas turned the ball over to Harrison, only to have it returned again. McGuffey then scored two points with an assist from Mike Woosley. Harrison attempted as McGuffey got the rebound and Markland turned the ball over, allowing the Thorobreds to score two more, score 2-8 with 4:35 left in the quarter. With 3:20 left in the quarter, Bretz completed a basket with Mike Woosley's assist. The Thorobreds completed two more and Mike Sowell matched this with the score 6-10. McGuffey fouled with 1:38 left in the quarter. The Thorobreds completed two foul shots, score 6-12. Harrison returned the foul sending McGuffey to score two foul shots, score 8-12. Steve Anderson stole the ball for Nicholas, assisting Sowell in scoring two. The Thorobreds completed a shot with :01 on the clock and the score stood 10-14 at the end of the first quarter.

To begin the second quarter Markland got the Thorobred rebound and McGuffey raised the score two points with an assist from Sowell, 13-14. A Thorobred was fouled with 7:15 on the clock, and completed two foul shots. Anderson scored two for the Jackets with an assist from Mark Markland. The Thorobreds took the ball, only for McGuffey to steal it and Markland to tie the score 16-16, with an assist from Sowell. Both teams matched a foul and the score reversed. The Thorobreds led 17-18. Anderson scored with an assist from Sowell, with 4:34 on the clock. As the clock read 3:49 and the Thorobreds were at the line from a foul by Anderson, the score was 21-23. Markland attempted to score, rebounded, and scored two more. With 2:38 left in the quarter Sowell completed two foul shots and the score was 25-20. The Thorobreds went to the line on a foul from McGuffey, completing two shots with 1:33 on the clock. Bretz completed a basket with the assistance of McGuffey. With :25 left on the clock, the score was 29-26. The Thorobreds attempt was good, as McGuffey hustled and gained a basket with an assist from Sowell. The half-time score was 31-28.

The Thorobreds began the third quarter by scoring after the jump ball. McGuffey matched this with an assist from Sowell. Once again with the ball, the Thorobreds completed two more and were sent to the foul line. After missing the free throw, they got the rebound and scored another two. The ball was rebounded by both teams and the Thorobreds scored again. The Jackets were fouled, only to turn the ball back, letting the Thorobreds score another basket. With 4:51 on the clock the score stood 33-38. The Thorobreds got Woosley's rebound and turned the ball over to McGuffey, who scored with an assist from Anderson. The Thorobreds matched this basket. Nicholas placed the ball back into a Thorobred hand to score another goal. Sowell went to the foul line and completed two free throw shots. With 3:44 left in the quarter, the score was 37-40. The Jackets matched the Thorobreds next two shots and the score stood 41-46 with 2:04 on the clock. McGuffey got the rebound and scored two for the Jackets. The Thorobreds fouled and regained the ball from Sowell's rebound, only for Bretz to steal it back. The quarter ended as Markland's attempt failed, and the score stood 43-46.

Beginning the fourth quarter, McGuffey fouled and the Thorobreds missed their two foul shots. Bretz attempted as the Thorobreds got the rebound and scored. Sowell was then fouled, while attempting to score, and completed his two foul shots, score 43-48. The Thorobreds then attempted, only for Bretz to get the rebound and score. Sowell stole the ball and scored for the Jackets, bringing them ahead by one, 49-48. Sowell was sent to the foul line with 6:32 left in the game. Harrison got the rebound and completed two. Bretz attempted and Woosley fouled, sending a Thorobred to the line. Markland got the rebound and Sowell was fouled. He completed his two free throws and brought the Jackets ahead by one, 51-50. The Thorobreds attempted that by scoring, but fouled Sowell, sending him to complete his two foul shots. Markland fouled on the Thorobreds' attempt and Sowell regained the ball by stealing and assisted Woosley in completing a basket. With 4:21 left in the game and the score 55-52, Harrison is sent to the line on a foul by Sowell. They completed their two foul shots, bringing them within two of Nicholas. With 3:48 on the clock the score stood 55-56. Sowell was sent to the foul line and raised the score 57-56. Anderson regained the ball by stealing as Sowell was fouled and completed two more free throws. With 3:01 left in the game the score stood 59-56. Woosley scored two points with an assist from Bretz. The Thorobreds went to the line on a foul by Anderson and completed their two foul shots, score 61-58. Sowell then scored two. The Thorobreds matched this only for Bretz to turn the ball back over to them to score again. The clock read 1:26 and the score stood 63-64. Sowell completed two free throws with :45 left in the game, 65-64. After exceeding time-outs and well-playing from each team, the game ended with a score of 65-64, a Jacket win.

The Jackets faced Maysville's St. Patricks Friday night, losing by a score of 73-90.

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Cawood Comments

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By the voice of the University of Kentucky Wildcats
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THE JOURNEY IS NOT OVER

LEXINGTON - You can look it up. It's in the dictionary. "Dirk: a long straight-bladed dagger."

I doubt Kentucky's sophomore guard, Dirk Minnifield, was named after the knife, but he is stabbing through Southeastern Conference defenses with regularity.

Minnifield is already the best guard in the league. I've thought it ever since Kentucky played L.S.U. Sure, L.S.U. blew the Wildcats (right out of the bayou, but Minnifield outplayed the Tigers' Ethan Martin, generally regarded the best in the conference.

"I think I really got more confidence after the L.S.U. game," Dirk was telling me the other day. "Martin is real good but I thought I played him at least even in that game and I think I've been playing better ever since."

At this stage of the season, Minnifield is getting more playing time than anybody on the U.K. roster. He loves it.

"Yeah, I do," Dirk says. "I like to play. I think I can adjust more as the game goes along. I think I'm in good shape and I'm not getting tired. I just like to play."

One reason Dirk is getting so much playing time is his ability to play either guard position. With Kentucky facing so many zones this year the Wildcats have a point guard and a wing guard. When Jim Master is in the lineup, Dirk plays the point.

Dirk explains the difference in the positions. "At the wing position you're expected to shoot more. At the point position you're expected to penetrate the defense and get the ball to the shooters." Minnifield prefers playing the point guard.

The thing Dirk Minnifield likes best is the play of the whole team.

"We're close to jelling," he says, "and with the tournaments coming up this is the right time to be getting it together. Our defense has picked up. Our rebounding is better. Our forwards are playing good, steady ball. We're playing with more confidence and shooting better."

Dirk Minnifield flashes a smile and predicts, "This journey is not over yet."

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