

### Opinion

## Ambulance crisis Court and council 'get on the sick'

Last week's meeting of the City Council and Fiscal Court on the ambulance crisis underscored the fact that very little has been accomplished in the last few months to provide a workable plan for the county to operate an ambulance service.

Other services have been studied, a grant proposal has been prepared and several alternatives have been tossed out. But as for practical explanation of exactly how an ambulance service will operate when the local funeral homes go out of the business at midnight December 31 — our local governing bodies have been caught sitting on their hands.

In addition to filling out the grant proposal, last Tuesday night's meeting was designed to develop some general overview of the county's plan for running the service, in order that the voters would have some idea of what exactly they were voting on November 3. No such overview emerged.

Only one more edition of the Mercury will be published before the question of establishing an ambulance service taxing district will be put to the voters for their decision. The county's voters also have some idea of what exactly they are voting on November 3. No such overview emerged.

To expect them (including us) to turn over \$90,000 of hard earned cash to a government that has no definitive plan for its utilization is ludicrous.

So far our officials and some concerned citizens have worked reasonably hard in exploring possibilities for future ambulance service in the county. But the overall response of the Court and the Council has been less than expedient — to say the least.

At last week's meeting this was made painfully clear. Members of the Court and Council, concerned citizens, local EMT's and representatives from both local funeral homes were gathered to address the situation. What transpired was hogwash. Whenever a possibility was offered by someone, the perennial naysayer in our governing bodies were quick to criticize. "Well that won't work." Perhaps a critical eye is needed to see that tax dollars are not wasted foolishly.

But continual criticism unaccompanied by any constructive alternative is futile. We question whether the role of an elected official is one of negative inaction, or of positive action. We don't elect and pay Councilmen and Magistrates to continually say "That won't work." We elect and pay them to find something that will work.

But lacking a timely response from our local government, we feel compelled to now do our own necks on the chopping block. We feel an ambulance service to protect the welfare of our citizens is worth a couple of kicks from the negative elements of our local leadership.

After countless hours (i.e. dollars) on the phone with officials around the state, we will offer a few suggestions to the county for taking steps to implement a county-run ambulance service. We offer these suggestions under two premises that have been garnered from our observation of the county's plans for the system at the local level:

- (1) that the county desires to operate a "confirming" system in order to be eligible to receive state and Medicaid reimbursements; and
  - (2) that the county operate a volunteer service.
- These two bases seem to underlie the effective county is presently leaning in, and they seem to be workable premises. If the first proves unworkable, Chapter 216B of the Kentucky Revised Statutes which still is a legally sensitive question, seems to provide that by a resolution of the Fiscal Court, the county can opt-out of state regulation of the leaders. Garter who must approve any training of any EMT in the county, has indicated that very little change exists in the training schedule in Carlisle for at least six months. If the county does desire local training in the future, they must "get in line."

find a volunteer service that has become a model for ambulance service across the state, as well as an intense point of civic pride. Gallatin County has almost an identical county population as Nicholas. Its county seat, Warsaw, has a population of 1,600, very close to Carlisle, and in many ways it resembles our local community. They handle around 300 ambulance runs a year, just as we do. Gallatin County must also have practical explanation of exactly how an ambulance service will operate when the local funeral homes go out of the business at midnight December 31 — our local governing bodies have been caught sitting on their hands.

Yet Gallatin County has developed a fine ambulance service. And one need only speak with a few people in that northern Kentucky county to develop some general overview of the county's plan for running the service, in order that the voters would have some idea of what exactly they were voting on November 3. No such overview emerged.

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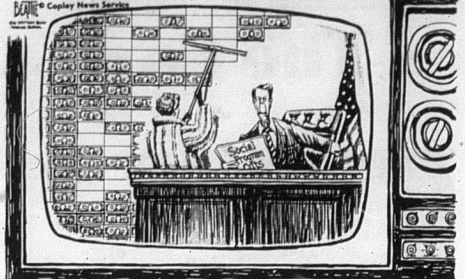
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"Excuse me a minute, folks... Nancy's redecorating."

## Agree or not How deep in the sewer can a politician swim?

By S.C. Van Curen

How deep in the sewer can politics get? How low will politicians go to get elected? How low will they go to get re-elected? How low will they go to get re-elected a second time?

At hand is a letter from venerable Democrat Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, importing several citizens to make cash contributions to the Democratic Party under the veiled threat campaign label as the "Campaign to Save Social Security."

"I am not, am not going to stand by silently and let the Republicans destroy Social Security. And I don't think you will either. That's why I'm writing to ask you to join with me and the Democratic Party in the CAMPAIGN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY."

"No, the Democratic Party has set up as its number one priority, the goal of saving the Social Security System."

"This sentence immediately alerts us, because the system is being destroyed. If not, why would the Democrats have to adopt a plan to save it?"

"The letter continues with other entreaties. 'Believe me, the ballot box is the most important weapon we have against those who would destroy our Social Security System.'"

"However, if we can raise the money needed to elect candidates who will defend the Social Security System, we can protect the real needs of those Americans already retired or planning to retire."

"Your employees contributions of \$10 or \$100 or more will help us elect candidates who will defend the Social Security System. We need your help to launch this campaign."

"The Democratic Party has set up as its number one priority, the goal of saving the Social Security System."

Unless you and I act — and act immediately — Social Security benefits could be drastically reduced or destroyed, and their coordinator also serves for free. After initial costs comparable to those facing Nicholas County in the first few years of the program, the Gallatin Fiscal Court now pays only \$5,000 per year to cover insurance costs for their service. Many lessons could be learned from a detailed study of their set-up by our local officials. But the most important one now, is a volunteer service can work in a county the size of Nicholas.

Operating under these premises, the county must take the following steps immediately:

Contact the office of need and licensure at the Department for Human Resources in Frankfort by the end of this month, and inform them of the county's plan to take over the service at the beginning of the year. The county must stress that this is a transfer service, and that service will not be interrupted.

Officials at the office have informed us that if there is "no interruption in services," the process for obtaining a Certificate of Need, and a license for the new service is relatively simple. If the county is not ready to take over Jan. 1, 1982, then not only will the health and welfare of Nicholas County be jeopardized, but the needs and interests of the local community will be harmed.

A letter stating the county's situation and plans must be in Frankfort by Oct. 22, 1981. If an emergency situation develops, we have the matter brought before the board for need and licensure when it meets Nov. 18. The board would then advise the county of your trouble spot. Consider these excerpts from Pepper's letter:

"Social Security is no longer secure."

"I am not, am not going to stand by silently and let the Republicans destroy Social Security. And I don't think you will either. That's why I'm writing to ask you to join with me and the Democratic Party in the CAMPAIGN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY."

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## No joy in Newsville... the mighty telecasters have struck out

It isn't enough that the news is dry to almost entirely depressing, and most of us have learned to live with these grim tidings and an occasional flap of doom. But there is no way to renew the life it brings to us by television newscasters, who insist on being cheerful, and even somewhat playful about it, at the end of their reports.

Edward R. Murrow as a master of doom, it was time to hunt up a fall guy and jump off. And when he wanted his fall guy, there was no one else but cheerleader or canard. He ended the depression to sink in and to die.

You'd think the TV news teams would be the common decency to be just as grim as the rest of it at the end of a broadcast. Their faces should be downcast, the demeanor grave, with just a touch, perhaps, of apprehension. But that isn't the way they finish the news. The final smile is a well-worn and widespread staple as the camera plays back and forth, killing serious time while the credits are being rolled and a voice is telling us what is coming up next.

Some of the telecasters even smile at this time to compliment one another about their dress, their babies or their new car.

It is a kind of self-congratulatory scene, like that of a ball-team in the locker room after another victory. "We did it again," everybody seems to be saying. "And we're back to it. The whole scene is like Ned Fiddling while Rome is burning. You if I think TV producers would insist on this kind of men holding their glee at least until the camera is off them, to give their sad

news more credibility. Pictures of news teams beaming and patting each other on the back and waving while the world is falling apart is just not conceivable.

When there is only one newscaster in the studio, such as with the nighttime network news breaks, the situation is different. People like Dan Rather, John Chancellor and Frank Reynolds just have anybody else to exchange smiles with at the conclusion of their broadcasts. Their only relief is that these embarrassing seconds when the camera is pointed their way, is to shuffle the pages of their script.

If the program running has been good, the news anchor will smile broadly. But if the program runs bad, he expects anyone to believe him. Otherwise, he gives misery a bad name.

You know it to be a bad week when... You've got both contact lenses into one eye. The bottle of beer you put in the freezer for a quick chill finally expires.

A neighbor Aid discovers that his shrub the whole while trigger your automatic garage door opener. You spend the day without any of your friends or colleagues telling you that you are unappreciated.

You play books from work, about a hole-in-one and the only witness is a hazy crowd of onlookers. You go out to get a Monday morning paper and there is a surviving creeper in your front yard.

It is a good English of ancient lineage, as are many of our expressions, which nevertheless seem to furnish amusement to our Northern brethren. The "None of the River" misuse of "you all," by supposedly intelligent writers and playwrights, is as absurd as the frequent characterization of a titled Englishman, who drops his "e."

These remarks that for Visible Still, Revised Shrieking of Resemblance, United Unreliability, World Neglect, Variable Tardiness, Long Lunches, and the like, are the most common of an air of respectability, if that is possible, has been tried at one of the world's greatest cities. It is a pity that the world is getting smaller as he could publish studies on the blue language. He has completed Old Irish Insults. The only problem is, the recipient will probably think this is some kind of serious award, and will spend the rest of the day showing off to his friends.

We are all aware, I presume, that while politicians and the tributory will be ambitious, strainers, they aren't exactly kissing outside either. A veteran of the political scene was telling me about the state legislator who approached one of his cohorts during a session about a bill he was pushing.

"I need your vote on this," pleaded the legislator, "will you give me your vote of honor that you support me?" "I can't do that," said the other legislator.

"Well," said the first legislator, "if you can't give me your vote of honor, will you at least give me your solemn promise?"

"You're dirty, lowdown blanket blank! You've got that! Not too well, according to an expert on the unsavory art of counting, the claims that Americans are not very creative when it comes to phrasing. This case, Dr. Reinhold Aman, who holds a Ph.D. in medieval language and literature, edits and publishes a

## An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.

October 22, 1981

As well as poor writers may, I would pay respect to the memory of a fine gentleman whose passing is chronicled in this issue of the Mercury. More than anyone I have ever known she retained, beyond the age that we have come to regard as life's allotted span, a youthful quality of mind, a broad tolerance for the shortcomings of others, a genuinely humane spirit, attributes all, it seems to me, which mark the true believer in that flaming gospel of love and forbearance so simply taught by the Man of Galilee... It seems fitting and as we have wished that little more faithful were ended for my friend, Mrs. Aurelia Secrest, within the village block where she had lived in her youth, until the sudden onset of the white arms of an ancient scycamore beneath which she played as a child. For to her that childhood youth, spent in that little town, has become altogether sweet and pleasant in retrospect. I am conscious this morning of the folk which I call "None of the River" misuse of "you all," by supposedly intelligent writers and playwrights, is as absurd as the frequent characterization of a titled Englishman, who drops his "e."

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forgot their kindness, will win through the mists beyond which we living may not see to a valiant soul set out upon the Great Adventure? It is not too much, it hope.

Why do the Northern writers of books, plays, stories, jokes, vaudeville sketches and what-not, insist upon making the use of "you all," as referring to one person, an earmark of the Southerner?

I doubt if the expression is ever used in that sense, by either white or black. It is used only and exclusively by the Southerner. When we say, "How are you all?" we include the family of the man addressed, or those with whom he is spoken with, and the meaning is, "How are they all?"

It is a good English of ancient lineage, as are many of our expressions, which nevertheless seem to furnish amusement to our Northern brethren. The "None of the River" misuse of "you all," by supposedly intelligent writers and playwrights, is as absurd as the frequent characterization of a titled Englishman, who drops his "e."

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## Memory Lane

Continued from page 2

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Fryman, a daughter, Wednesday, Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Ritter, Lexington, a daughter, Patricia May, Oct. 17.

MARRIED — Miss Daphne Gore of Fairland, Okla. to Mr. Glenn of Fulton, Okla., Oct. 21.

DECEASED — Dr. Ernest B. Sunday at his home near Blair Lewis — James R. Sibley, Dr. Saturday at his home on North Street. — Mrs. Sallie Vaughn Butler, St. Thursday at her home in

Carlisle. Thursday, October 22, 1981. The epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever, which for a time threatened to become serious, has about subsided, no new cases having been reported this week.

MARRIED — Miss Katherine Brunker and Roy Clark of the Morning Glory neighborhood, at Lexington last Thursday. — Miss Lucy Huggins, of this city, and Mr. Huggins, of the Taylor's Creek neighborhood, at the Methodist parsonage in Mt. Sterling, Tuesday afternoon.

DECEASED — Anna Bell Call, five, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Call, near East Union, last Thursday. — Robert Clinton Hunt, three, at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayer Hunt, near Pleasant Valley, last Friday. — J.W. Walker, 64, at his home in Munceville, last Friday after several months' illness.

DR. ADRON DORAN, SPEAKER

When: October 25th  
Time: 2:30 p.m. Sunday  
Location: Carlisle Meeting House  
just across from Nicholas County High School  
Speaker: Dr. Adron Doran, President Emeritus Morehead State University and Evangelist of Nicholasville, Ky. Church of Christ  
Local Minister: Frank W. Cleaver, Evangelist

## Down Memory Lane

Diphtheria epidemic subsides

Thursday, October 22, 1981

The Nicholas County Tobacco Festival will be held at the Carlisle Army Friday, Nov. 17. Lovell Bellar is chairman. Joe Allen Stone, vice-chairman. Willie Young Sr., Secretary. S.H. Barber is Publicity Chairman.

5000 bond was given the 4th Complete Tuesday night by members of the Boy Scouts of America. The \$10,000 of the County Farm Bureau will be the total gifts and pledges to \$10,000.

A freak of nature or the beautiful weather? The weather conference on the farm of John S. Frederick in Goodwood Road, in spite of foggy nights, several branches of the fog are beating into Moxness farm. Arrived at the home of Mrs. Gurn, a son, Friday, Oct. 20 at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Aquan Morrison, a daughter, Layda Danely, Oct. 17 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Alle Butler, a daughter, Rebecca Mae, Oct. 18 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Hunt, a son, Richard Lee, Oct. 17 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. John S. Frederick, a daughter, Rebecca Mae, Oct. 18 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. James T. Graves, a daughter, in the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mrs. Babbette

Myers Johnson, 59, widow of Leonard Warren Johnson, Tuesday at home in Lexington. — Mrs. Ida Redder, 86, widow of John Redder, Monday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Babbette Myers Johnson, Tuesday at home in Lexington. — Mrs. Babbette Myers Johnson, Tuesday at home in Lexington. — Mrs. Babbette Myers Johnson, Tuesday at home in Lexington.

## The Old Rambler

by James C. Smith

Ah! fall is in the air, the wonders of the harvest season. And every year around this time, newspaper readers are besieged with urban columns about the joys of the season's bucolic wit.

Is this phenomenon the result of nature's goodness in picking the hearts of those who spend typewriters for a living? No way. What happens is that every year around this time, newspapers throughout the nation receive their copies of the "Farmer's Almanac." The 48-page pamphlet is a boon for colonists. They gleefully thumb through it, and find the most interesting and snappy patter and steel lines right and left. Publishers Ray and Peter Geiger think this is fine for they all, a little free advertising doesn't hurt anyone.

For 165 years the almanac has been sending forth such capsules of wisdom as, "You're getting old when you get winded while brushing your teeth," or, "Ask not what your county can do for you, because if you do, you're bound to be taxed for it."

It's an authority on law — "Dixon's Law: When following a slow-moving vehicle, it will turn in the same direction and at the same intersection as you do."

Philosophies — "Some people learn traffic rules by accident," or "You're kidding when you say you'll call the Suicide Prevention Hotline... and they put you on hold."

## The Carlisle Mercury

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James C. Smith... Managing Editor  
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## Your Invitation

To Our Grand Beginning

As I was saying, the almanac is a great place to list newspaper columns... a blessing on a slow, cool and rainy Friday morning.

The new 20-cent stamp which will be needed to mail a letter after Nov. 1 will bear the likeness of James Hoban, the man who designed the White House. That's a nice gesture for architects, but it would be more fitting if the new stamps depicted portraits of Moe Biller and Vince Semrolotto.

Mr. Biller is president of the American Postal Workers Union. Mr. Semrolotto heads the National Association of Letter Carriers.

The new postal rates are necessary to pay for the \$4.8 billion contract their unions extracted from the U.S. Postal Service under the threat of a nationwide mail strike last July, and credit should go where credit is due.

The contract gave postal workers a 10 percent pay raise, the promise of additional raises to match increases in the consumer price index, and an improved health care package. This is on top of the \$23,300 a year in wages and fringe benefits which the average postal employee has been earning before.

Moe and Vince, in spite of their contribution to making postal costs so rewarding, will never be mentioned in a stamp during their lifetimes. The policy is to adorn stamps with pictures of Americans who are both distinguished and deceased.