

# Opinion

## We need a 'Yes' vote

We don't particularly enjoy paying our tax bills any more than anyone else. Make no mistake about it - we pay our fair share. And when the possibility of another load thrust upon the backs of property holders comes up, we cringe at the thought.

But there are times when the community's needs supercede thoughts of our own pocketbook. The question which will face county voters Tuesday is such a case. In that question, we decide whether or not we are willing to assure emergency medical protection to our community.

All preliminary indications point toward a very close vote. The thought of additional taxation is distasteful. But the thought of a loved one suffering, or even dying, for lack of an emergency medical service is abhorrent.

And that is the dilemma we are really faced with. It will not go away. The situation will not take care of itself. Someone else will no longer shoulder the responsibility for us.

The reasons a local ambulance service is needed are obvious. We won't bore you with needless rhetoric. But there are a few things to think about before Tuesday.

Would ambulances from surrounding counties respond to a call for help from Nicholas? Probably. If the possibility of someone who is not familiar with the county responding quickly to an accident at Needmore or Mt. Zion (just for examples) is very unlikely.

If the vote fails, the possibility of seeing a family member or friend, in desperate need of emergency medical care, lie for what would seem like hours while some form of ambulance transportation was being arranged is very real.

While the thought of hauling persons in dire need of medical attention around in a station wagon seems remote at the present time, a

failure of the tax referendum would almost assure the local services of nonconforming status. The funds to operate a conforming system don't exist in the present budget of the Fiscal Court nor the City Council. (The cost of two proposed vehicles alone is \$15,000.)

We have chastised the Court and Council for their handling of this situation. We have also said that it would be ludicrous to hand hard-earned tax dollars to them without some kind of idea as to their plans for its utilization. We stand firm in those assertions.

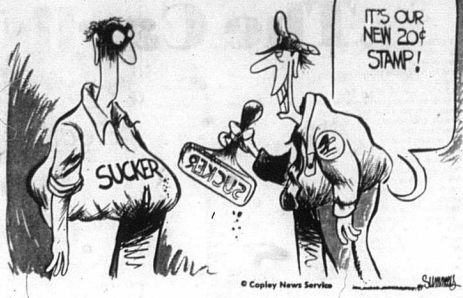
But this is a ludicrous situation we have been placed in. We are between the proverbial rock and a hard place. We must either vote for a tax without any specific knowledge of how it will be used, or we must say "NO" to the tax and rest secure that the level of ambulance care in the county will be at best far less than desirable, and at worst nonexistent.

Yet, the whole of our community must not be made to suffer for the action (or inaction) of a few. And a reasonable "YES" vote from their constituents would mandate that our government leaders take positive action.

Another danger, neither the Council or the Court is required by law to provide the county with an ambulance service. If we show them convincingly at the polls that we value such a service, then we must be prepared to live with the consequences.

We urge all of those citizens concerned about the vote to vote "Yes" on this ambulance question Tuesday. And everyone who wants to see a local ambulance service must get out to the polls. For rest assured, those who oppose will turn out in throngs.

A "Yes" vote is a vote for the health and welfare of our community and its future.



## Agree or not

### If Stephens is administration's lawyer then who is protecting taxpayers?

by S.C. Van Carter  
Even though a contract was let by the Attorney General's office that violates state law according to an opinion issued by the Attorney General's office, no legal action is contemplated by that office.

The opinion was issued October 8 on the request of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE), regarding a contract let for a bridge in Shelby County last June 12.

The contract was let as a "turnkey" project which called for the contractor to do the location, design and construction of the bridge and approach. If the project is described as Project No. W12222 on Homer Road, Ky. 90 at Guist Creek, approximately one mile southeast of Ky. 81.

The bid was \$18,470,50, or 122 percent below the original estimate according to KSPE. Work is now under way.

The engineering society specifically asked if this particular bidding procedure violated the Model Procurement Law (KRS Chapter 63) passed by the 1978 Legislature.

The Attorney General's opinion said "the application of the statute to the road building function is clearly excluded from the statute." In plain words, it means this statute does not apply. However, the opinion went on to say that the "turnkey" method of letting

## Large

### Sorry, Charlie . . . Only the best clothes get to be Newskirt

Fashion expert Charlie Hix is marketing under his fancy duds because newspaper reporters prefer a more casual style of attire than the "creative" Thrasher.

Charlie, one of those folks who delights in teasing best and worst-dressed fans, has announced the worst-dressed professional in his newspaper reports.

"I've never known any other group of men who make a habit of putting on an appearing unkempt," he complains, "who should always have confidence that a man who looks as if he can barely be his shoelaces is savvy enough to report on matters of crucial importance?" he asks.

Just you drop a few aitches and we'll show you how savvy we are in reporting, Charlie. Newspaper reporters are so dedicated to their jobs they cannot be concerned with their hair. Some even have been trained to tie their own shoelaces at the time lost from their job is well worth the long training period it takes.

Looking cruddy is a badge of honor for newspaper reporters. That they could do better, so they may as well be listed as an asset. Charlie is just mad because he has never been able to duplicate the distinctive flair of newspapermen's attire. And that's because it is genuine; no machine has been invented that can put these shapes into clothing.

Instead of whining like a school child who is told to do better, Charlie would be smart to cash in on the styles. He's got a few hundred newspapermen to wear his duds and after properly stained, mugged and rumpled-up professional in his newspaper reports.

"I would be glad to supply him with a continuing stock of ventilated bracelets. But I don't think it's much different from sparring my shirt and these give me instant identity, particularly on the days I wear light-colored underwear."

You just can't buy these customized pants anywhere, the kind that give you ventilation and a changeable polka-dot look. Customers should be warned, however, to change their drawers periodically, because it's their own shoelaces that wear the same color dots day after day.

Shirts and neckties come in a million different colors and designs, but no one has been able to match the pattern. Charlie is mad because he has never been able to duplicate the distinctive flair of newspapermen's attire. And that's because it is genuine; no machine has been invented that can put these shapes into clothing.

Over the years, President Reagan has bored the one-to-one to a sharp political edge. Some samples of his pith and wit are: "You just have to learn to say so." "Cutting programs: 'An government program is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on earth.'"

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## Russ Metz

A fellow named Tony Swan has written for an automobile magazine a set of Murphy's Laws regulations which might be useful to anyone who is unable to install it properly.

The likelihood of someone doing so in the fast lane is directly proportional to how late you get to work.

Traffic always flows faster in the other lanes.

If there are multiple traffic lanes and one car is stopped at the stoplight in each lane, the car you are behind will be the slowest to move when the light turns green.

The windshield wiper on a passenger-side always works better.

The chances of someone making a right turn from the left-hand lane as a constant 1-in-3.

The street with the free of traffic until you start pull out of your driveway or away from the curb. Then the whole world will come down your street.

The only point under the car from which oil drips is directly above where you are lying.

The chance of your reflecting the moon from the rearview is inversely proportional to how badly you will need the car on Monday morning.

If there is any possibility of installing a part backwards, that's the only way it will look right.

If you catch it and correct the inverted part, it probably means you had it right to begin with. Conversely, if the replacement parts carton will be usable to install it properly.

The "common hand tool" described in the replacement parts carton will be the tools you don't have.

The chances of the spare tire being flat are in direct ratio to the distance from the nearest town.

If anything major is going to go wrong, it will be in the first 10 miles after your warranty has expired.

Postroad systems don't take into account the inequity of fogs.

The chances of one of the kids throwing up are directly proportional to the ambient air temperature.

A tire will never go flat unless (a) the grade is at least 10 percent, (b) the tool is covered by at least 87 pounds of weight, or (c) you loaned your jack to a friend and forgot to get it back.

The windshield wipers will fall apart only when you turn them on during the worst rainstorm of the decade.

The motorist is far away from home and the car is making funny sounds and he has just passed a gas station.

The car is being serviced in miles. And the mechanic is off duty.

Forward, upward.

## An editor's random thoughts...

### The 'No' succession

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.  
October 28, 1981

There come times - as too frequent, as the years creep on in their inexorable, velvet-footed march - when I find myself welling up loving words that I would set down, yet I cannot.

In the light of the mind's scrutiny they become unavailingly unremembered.

Command words suitable, words colorful and soft, and sentences honey-flowing - writing of the kind that I love have lined through which I might fittingly show my love and abounding admiration for my adored young friend and cousin, Achille Wilborn Fisher.

Looking back through the years of my life, I think I have never known a sweeter and yet a more undaunted spirit than those in the person of this altogether lovable girl - who enjoyed with unfeigned zest and charming gaiety the simplest of life's little pleasures that came her way.

For then went people any how or ever lose complete understanding in thoughtful, unassuming service to the sick and to the sick at heart.

I must enjoy life, every minute of it, she said to me a few short days ago. "And I do," she added. I am thankful that she said this to me, for it is comforting to believe that a wholesome joy in life came to her in childhood, albeit with a through a radiant girlhood, to be crowned with the charming little home she had dreamed, a

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## Sources revealed

We understand there has been some question lately about where we received our information for recent stories on the lawsuit by former patrolman Jim Coy against the Mayor and the City.

The question, which comes from people who would have thought knew better, wants to know who our "sources" are.

We have no qualms about divulging sources on this matter. In fact, we feel a responsibility to tell everyone about this found of information on the lawsuit.

"Sources" is nothing more than a file of records at the Circuit Court Clerk's office. Those records are open to any citizen who wishes to see them. Once a document is filed with the court, it becomes a matter of public record, and thus subject to the scrutiny of the citizenry.

We have no secret sources in this matter. We have only examined records that each and every citizen in our country has the right to see.

We have, of course, called attorneys on both sides of the fence for explanations of certain legal points, but that's it.

We hope we haven't de-romanticized some people's conception of where our information came from, but open records are information records.

## Down Memory Lane

### Townsend slugged and robbed

The effects and cooperation of these many people, together with the able help of my secretary, Diana Williams, made my task as the County Bloodmobile Coordinator much easier. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Rev. David C. Stancil

To The Carlisle Mercury: All the other newspapers come out for support for a candidate for mayor.

Carlisle needs a change. Could your fee feel out this week for me?

I feel he is the best man for the job. Or come out for one of your own.

Thank you,  
Rodney Dale  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Sims, Mt. Olive, a

(Editor's note: Many papers do endorse political candidates. Many do not. For many years now, the Mercury has belonged to the latter category. We happen to follow the belief, along with many of the state's most respected weeklies, that the bonds of journalistic responsibility are far too wide to be arbitrarily narrowed by allegiance to a single candidate. We will often serve to help a losing cause, but overall we believe that showing the facts, the people will find their own way.)

To The Carlisle Mercury: As former Governor, I would like to state my position on the proposed amendment to the constitution which would allow all state officers and county clerks to succeed themselves. I am deeply opposed to such an amendment as drawn when I served the evening meal to the church and Pious Bob Gibson, for the use of their building and facilities.

The Carlisle Garden Club and their bloodmobile representative, Mrs. Key Shumate, for enlisting our cooperation. The representative, Mrs. Key Shumate, for enlisting our cooperation. The representative, Mrs. Key Shumate, for enlisting our cooperation.

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Miss Harriet Brayfield, 47, Oct. 24 at Winter Park, Fla. - Christian J. Frey, 86, Tuesday at the Nicholas County Hospital. - Herman Harwitt, 79, Monday at the God Samaritan Hospital, Lexington.

Thursday, October 29, 1981  
Eugene T. Townsend, 61, Monday at the Carlisle High School band, under the direction of Don Trivette, attended the annual Band Day at Morehead State College, Oct. 28.

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The Farmers Stock Yards reported the sale of 1229 head Tuesday on the farm. The sale was slugged and robbed Sunday morning as he entered his barn on the East Union Road. His assistant struck him behind the head, taking his billfold and change.

BRN - To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas, 4180 Hwy. 4031, Oct. 29 at St. John's Hospital in Oxford, Md. - To Mr. and Mrs. Don Sims, Mt. Olive, a daughter, Oct. 29 at the Nicholas County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cole, May 14, a son, Oct. 24 at the Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED - Miss Mary Catherine Allant to Kenneth G. Knapp, Oct. 28 at St. Peter Church in Lexington. - Miss Virginia Carl Bellamy to Bobby Lane Apey, Oct. 19.

DIED - Mrs. Laura Badcliffe Will, 79, Tuesday at Ashville, N.C. - Est Miller, 71, Dying, Thursday at Veterans Hospital, Washington, Va. - Mrs. Ava Fields Bing, 95, widow of John Willie Ring, Friday in Lexington.

Warren R. Fisher, Editor & Publisher  
Mrs. Katherine Fisher, Editor  
Mrs. Janie Duncan, Assistant to the Publisher  
Mrs. Ann Shumate, Comp. Writer/Operator

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## Letters

To The Carlisle Mercury: The Succession amendment listening and reading and watching the pressures being exerted by those favoring the amendment. I have been convinced the public is being stampeded like a bunch of cattle into voting for it. How?

If five men can borrow \$100,000 to mount a passage because they have the money, why are we erecting unbelievable power on the average voter. Who is taking the average voter's stress to the average voter?

If each election of candidate or issue can be financed by the money of dollars with it to prevent these same type of people from perpetuating themselves in office or instituting bad issues on the people simply because they have access to more power than the average man does not have.

I am not a sheep to be misled Monday. I shall vote for the amendment simply because some people are trying to buy its passage. This is wrong.

Note No on the succession amendment.  
Charles M. Cox  
415 Chestnut

To The Carlisle Mercury: We had a good bloodmobile drive last Monday, receiving 81 points of blood in our first drive of the new drive year. A sincere "Thank You" is due to all who came in to donate blood.

The efficiency of the day's activities was largely due to the efforts of the following people and organizations. I would like to thank for their help.

The Carlisle United Methodist Church and Pious Bob Gibson, for the use of their building and facilities.

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## The Idle Rambler

"The average newspaperman, especially of the better sort, has the intellect of a hillbilly evangelist, the courage of a rat, the fairness of a profligate book, the information of a high school janitor, the taste of a designer of children's Valentines and the honor of a police station lawyer."

by James C. Smith  
I've been reading Edger Berman's The Politician's Primer: From the Amnesia to the White House recently. What an entertaining book.

His contents are even legitimized with a preface from Herbert Huppert. That's incredible. Huppert contends that "all politics can be traced to our earliest beginnings in the warmish steam of a primitive bonfire."

His rapier-like wit proceeded to rip the trappings of office from our esteemed public servants and to rip my sides with pains of laughter. But Berman turns the last laugh on all of us.

It is with most tragically accurate allegory that he makes us all snip and think. "If a politician is supported, it is a bludgeon to create that choice. A live of bees rarely trails even the most charming rhinoceros into the river, nor do polar bears leave their icy borders to follow the most charismatic zebra into the jungle."

Touché.

The book is just filled with memorable quotes. And I love aphorisms. (My favorite author is Bartlett.) Here are a few of those great

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