

Opinion

The Depot is a treasure

When the Nicholas County Historical Society unveiled the results of their \$30,000 renovation of the old L&N Railroad Depot at the Society's annual dinner last Thursday, it was indeed a big day for everyone in the community. For with that renovation a bit of our special heritage was preserved.

Our words cannot do justice to the marvelous job the Society carried out. Nor can we begin to name all of those who are responsible. It must suffice to commend the commitment of the Nicholas County Historical Society for turning this dream into a reality.

The Depot will serve as a community center that will be available for all sorts of community and private functions. Meetings, dinners, wedding receptions... the limit is set only by our

needs. It is a much needed facility.

When the Women's Club finishes its work on the courtyard, the Depot will not only be enhanced, but our city will have another exciting new feature. Linda Soper said that the Club is planning to turn the courtyard into a semi-private "pocket park." A quiet, relaxing place where local people can duck in with a brown bag for a bit of lunch, or just sit and enjoy the tranquil patio.

We remind everyone that the Society is now seeking contributions of furniture for the facility, as well as donations to purchase furnishings. It is a most worthwhile cause.

To the Society and all involved, well done. To the community, it's ours to enjoy and treasure.

The Mexican oil deal

The government's new contract with Pemex, the Mexican state oil monopoly, will not fill this country's strategic oil reserve, but it's an important step. Under the contract, the government will buy 24 million barrels of Mexican oil before the end of this year and purchase 50,000 barrels a day through 1968. Since a reserve 70 million barrels is regarded as adequate protection against interruptions in world oil shipments — roughly the equivalent of 100 days of imports at current levels — the Mexican contract provides only a small fraction of the needs during the five-year life of the contract.

What's more significant than the numbers, however, is the administration's refusal to begin moving on the reserve, despite the official objections of Saudi Arabia and other OPEC suppliers. These objections until now had all but blocked action on filling the reserve, despite congressional mandates requiring the

administration to begin filling it.

The contract comes at a time when the oil glut has held prices down, and the government recently paid a price just over \$31 a barrel, considerably below the OPEC price. In the face of the deep divisions within OPEC and the world surplus, it's not likely that this country's Arab oil supplies will be able to do much more than maintain.

The Mexican deal, coming coincidentally on the heels of the U.S.-Libyan shoot-out over the Mediterranean, is another indication that the psychological balance between oil producers and oil consumers has begun to tip. That may be only a temporary luxury for the West, a hiatus until the next embargo or next little war in the Middle East. But it surely is also an indication that the West disciplines itself in its consumption of oil, despite its dependence on the producers, it can achieve a reasonable balance, if not superiority, in the petroleum war of nerves.

A sign of Reagan's mettle

Libya — of all countries — has accused the United States of "international terrorism." The charge was in an official protest against the downing by two U.S. Navy F-4 Phantom II fighters of a Soviet-supplied Libyan SU-22 fighter recently about 60 miles off the Libyan coast. It comes from a government which for years has been bankrolling terrorist movements all over the world and engaged in terrorist acts of its own, dispatching assassins to kill its opponents.

Libya is the epitome of the lunatic state. Its leader, Col. Muammar Khadafi, espousing his fanatical Muslim ideology, has sought to bring indignation against the United States and downed or invaded Egypt and actually invaded Chad, which Libya troops still occupy. He has even criticized the Palestine Liberation Organization as insufficiently militant in opposition to Israel and, in Iraq, may consider that a useful reminder.

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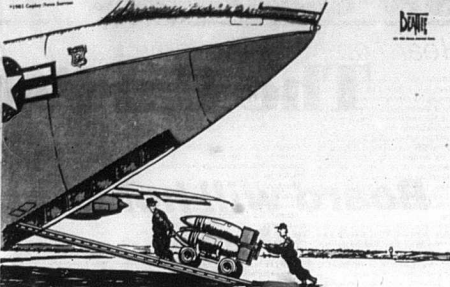
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"I hear these bombs are obsolete because the nerve gas is only able to kill you in three minutes.... They're trying to cut it down to a minute and a half."

Agree or not

Conflict of interest -- a gray area of individual opinion

By S.C. Van Curen

Conflict of interest in the administration of Gov. John Young Brown Jr. has been much in the news lately.

What constitutes conflict of interest? This is one of those questions that doesn't fall into the category of black or white. The legal criteria is particularly clear in a particular case: the proposed purchase of land in Metcovich, Ky., by the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents. In this case, a legislator who had just voted on a measure that affects him, or a very few of his associates. At the same time, the committee said it isn't a conflict of interest, such as a man voting on a measure that affects an entire class of people, such as farmers, lawyers, insurance dealers, etc.

It is true that a legislator could not vote on any question that affected their own district or constituency. This is true of many broad-based measures affecting professions and businesses.

Since this is such a gray area, it is important that the public officials in legislative positions are not sufficient to satisfy the integrity the general public has of an official's actions and conduct. The majority of the voters think the officials should be above such questions.

Last week Attorney General Steven Beshar asked the Kentucky Supreme Court to hear on appeal a decision from Franklin Circuit Court of a potential conflict-of-interest case involving Transportation Commissioner Frank Metcovich.

This case has been in and out of the news for more than a year. Involved is Metcovich's ownership of property in Jefferson County that may be affected by highway improvements.

Beshar is trying to speed up the court action by asking the Supreme Court to bypass the Court of Appeals. Beshar looks at the black side, holding to the theory that a state official who directly or indirectly receives any interest, profit or request from his agency is potential conflict, and can be removed from office.

Metcovich attorneys look at the white side and maintain that the issue should be judged on what state condemnation law would determine how much actual benefit would accrue to Metcovich if the state condemned the land.

Involved is 2,364.5 square feet of an 8.1 acre tract at an intersection in Louisville. Metcovich has offered to give the state the small parcel needed for the intersection.

However, the question revolves around how much Metcovich benefits if the intersection is improved? There may be reason to believe that the improvements will increase the value of the remaining land immensely.

John Q. Public always asks the question: why would Metcovich give up the land if it's in a conflict of interest?

Another public official recently involved in a similar situation is William Y. Schuler, energy and agriculture secretary. The recent fact about him involves a coal-mining facility at Ghent on the Kentucky River and the construction of a proposed facility in New Jersey.

Also involved is the sale of 50,000 tons of coal to Italy that Shuler and other people have worked out. The coal is to be supplied by a group of Eastern Kentucky operators.

Shuler's son Paul is manager of the Ghent facility and sold newsmen that his father is involved in the business. His father denies this.

Another involved official is William Young Lexington, who resigned as a state deleter to join the U.S. Air Force as a major in the Air Force.

He is a graduate of the University of Louisville. He was offered to give the state the small parcel needed for the intersection.

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Immunize the Iranians and the Libyans.

Normally, I don't stoop to such low humor, but since it is my suggestion, I'll do the patriotic duty by telling a couple of them to get this movement started.

Question: How do you get them to Libyans to eat a possum?

Answer: Don't eat the whole other watches for cars.

Question: Know why it takes seven hours to carry the cast of a show to the stage?

Answer: Six to carry the coffin and one to carry the "Down with America" sign.

I feel better now - I think.

—RM—

High MacNaughton, of Hilltop, N.Y., is proposing a book called "The Sany and the Sany." The title is a play on words of the opposite meaning is wrong. Some of the authors have come up with the following:

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by 36 percent of the U.S. population. Let it live (right to life). The fate of some unwanted children.

Top line (bottom line): If you deal with one, you will not have to worry about the other.

Dead broadcast (live broadcast): The majority of live broadcasts.

Economy (economy): It's falling. Foot work (yard work): three are required for yard work.

Haystack (sadist): eternal optimism. Hittles (mistake): What would we be without them?

Hallucinations (United Nations): A competing body.

Whistle (whistle) (pick): Really gross criticism.

Out of this galaxy (out of this world): Really far out.

Obwohl (Obwohl): The next larger alternative.

Tax leaves (tax returns): A more accurate description.

Zip code (zip code): Nine digits and zero additional performance.

—Evening sermon: How many should a Christian drink? Hymn by a full choir.

—"Mr. Iles Roden, the church secretary, suffered a painful injury Saturday when she tripped over a rug while moving furniture and fell, fracturing her kneecap and dislodging her heavily pregnant uterus.

—"Our speaker will be Mrs. Bedwell who, after the death of her husband, married on for several years another of the natives of South Africa."

—RM—

—"I've studied everything but the specific dates, but he never asks for the interests."

—We never kept it leader.

—The first never patris the alarm because I'm always awake by 7.

—I wasn't lober to set the alarm because I'm always awake by 7.

—I guess we've got enough gas to get to the east.

—You'll love it. My wife makes the best perfume in the county.

—I'll take these curves at any speed."

—RM—

Some old, some new humorous claims that people have turned into salve their injuries.

—I wake up unconscious.

An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren K. Fisher Sr.

September 15, 1964

Back in the days of plash ads and antimassagers and waxy artificial flowers in glass cases, when perfume was gaudy and musty (which we would know is not so many years ago after all) we remember that one of our favorite authors, writing with jacksnaws and "Old Maid," was the enjoyment of looking through the lenses of a hooded contraption at pictures of the Grand Canyon and the Crucifixion and John L. Sullivan, the latter if your paternal ancestor was a bit devilish or sportively inclined.

We remember looking through one of these doodads into the heart of a luscious blossom, marking the "Manger" and the "Wise Men," the latter by a somewhat generous stretch of

imagination; yes, of catching almost a whiff of the perfume depths of the night-blooming cereus. One's eyes were lured or out of focus somehow, after looking through stereoscopes at "Niagara Falls in Winter," at scenes of a rapist in a park, and at a woman in a dark, zesty evening dress with a daisy quizzical pace and there were drawers who continued to talk and "horseless carriages" despite the guffaws of practical folk.

At least it served, did this thinguma "stereoscope," that's the name — when Mary's little lamb was a bit too playful, or began to slip pictures on their own, or when you sent herways along the horizon, or have you seen the night-blooming cereus through the stereoscope, Mr. Terwilliger? If he hadn't, but we got no interest and continued to slide — well, further than this depot sayeth not, being of the age to hide beneath the sofa, rather than sit

The Idle Rambler

by James C. Smith

"With the breakdown of the Medieval system, the gods of Chaucer, Langue and Bad Taste gained ascendancy."

—John Kennedy Toole, A Confederacy of Dunces

On Fortuna, what's going on?

You see, dear readers, in the past few days that Medieval maiden who spun upon her mystical wheel the fates of mortal men has turned her wrath upon me and stopped my revolution in the realm of "Bad Karma."

The past few days have unfolded obvious evidence of my current situation, and should these incidents go unchecked, I am certain to wind up a drooling idiot.

For example: —

According to the method in which my tax withholding has been conducted, my long-awaited break from the Reagan tax cut package is actually going to cost me around \$4 a week in take-home pay.

—While lounging comfortably the other day with one of my most enjoyable wives, Black Mountain chesse, I had the misfortune to become too excited in consuming the epicurian art and sliced through the chesse with a vigorous stroke that left my thumb and the kitchen table in mangled condition.

Since it is my left thumb, I have little trouble navigating the typewriter keyboard, but layout is quite a different story.

—Reclining (note the use of strolchy verbs) with my all-time favorite midnight snack last Tuesday, I bit into something far too crunchy to be a milk-soaked cookie flake.

—Upon inspection I pulled from my left into the mutilated body of a small, winged roach. The sad part is, I finished the bowl of cereal.

—Reaching for a container of golden libation the other night I obstinately picked up one of the many empty amber bottles that were installed by my interior decorator, Ambusher-Busch, and proceeded to quaff down a mouthful of cigarette ash. If I've got the time, they've got the impropria ashtrays.

—To top it all off, I took my left hand and anyone finds it, please don't force a check for more than \$4.63. If you do, we'll both be in trouble.

If there are any Medievalists out there, please pray that Fortuna nudges her wheel upward a bit. If she doesn't hurry, I'm destined to

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MEMBERS
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N.W.A. NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

Thursday, September 18, 1964
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