Opinion

The shrinking citizen

The drift isn't new, but numbers released by the Federal Election Commission recently are so appalling that they make a qualitative difference. During the 1975-76 election campaign, the Republican Party spent $40 million, the Democrats $17 million, to elect state, national and local candidates. In 1980, the Republicans spent $170 million, the Democrats $35 million, roughly four times as much. Those expenditures do not include the expenditures of presidential campaign committees or the huge and rapidly increasing sums spent by political action committees, special interest groups and other organizations. The total spent by political action committees in 1979-80, largely for congressional candidates, was $131 million, up from $77 million two years earlier.

There are two shocking elements in those numbers. One is simply the increase in total expenditures, an increase so large that it leaves hardly a question that money — huge sums of money — has become a key determinant of electoral success. Given the fact that much of this money is spent on television spots, it contributes little to the political debate or to public understanding of the candidates; if anything, it detracts from them.

The other element, equally disturbing, is the large difference between the two parties. In 1980, the Republicans spent roughly five times as much as the Democrats. The Democrats promise to rectify that by improving their direct-mail fund-raising techniques, something which may or may not succeed, but which will certainly contribute to the further escalation of a political arms race which, other than the advertising industry, can have few real beneficiaries.

It should be pointed out that the real danger lies not in the money itself, but largely in the way the money is raised and spent. Given the fact that so much of it is inevitably spent for television and direct mail and that such a large part is raised from wealthy individuals and organizations, the difference tends to be academic.

Because it shifts power from the rank and file electorate to concentration on wealth, and because it is spent largely on the manipulation of media images, that kind of money has the capacity to destroy both political reason and democracy. The faster the escalation is controlled through spending limits, through limits of what can be raised from large orginizations and PACs, or through any other constitutional means — the better it will be for American politics.

At the rate we're going, 1984 could well become the nation's first billion-dollar political year. Without public financing, such money can only be raised from affluent interest groups pursuing something other than the public interest. The longer the process continues, the smaller citizenship becomes.

Fetal brain damage laid to alcohol use

A new study shows how alcohol consumption by pregnant or nursing mothers can harm fetuses and newborn infants.

Women have been advised for years to reduce alcohol intake during pregnancy, but a study conducted by Dr. Arun Rawat, a University of Toledo biochemist, indicates any alcohol ingested is cycled through the developing fetus and impairs vital brain development.

Dr. Rawat conducted his research on laboratory rats over a period of 15 months. He said results can be projected to indicate 20 percent of the children in America's mental retardation centers are victims of the fetal alcohol syndrome.

In his report to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Rawat said drinking alcohol, particularly in the first three months of pregnancy, hinders brain development.

The study also showed that nursing mothers who drink may be endangering their baby's mental health, because alcohol greatly reduces the rate of protein formation in the infant's brain.

The study by the biochemist should be investigated by the federal government, and if it is confirmed, efforts to warn pregnant women against drinking should be intensified.

Guest Editorial *By Vicki Dennis Kentucky Commission on Women*

Women affect political parties

I'm concerned about the future of our party. Women are leaving the Republican Party in considerable numbers. Little by little, the Republican Party has been turning its back on women's rights.
— Betty Ford, former First Lady

Pollsters don't often agree, but in recent months, surveys taken by the major poll-takers and people-interviewers — Gallup, Harris, the Washington Post, the New York Times, television networks and others — have reached an overwhelming decision. American women could very well hold the future of American politics in their hands. Suddenly, women have political clout and are exercising their right to use it.

This new political savvy on the part of women might not by itself make the Democrat and the Republican parties sit up and take notice, but it is accompanied by a statistic that is hard to ignore — women make up 53 percent of the population. Therefore, when women talk, the parties listen. And what women are apparently talking about today is a direct hit on the Reagan Administration.

Women, according to recent polls, are expressing disapproval for the way the resident is handling his job in much bigger numbers than men are. Betty Ford and other key Republican women are frankly fearful by what they see as a mass exodus of women away from the party. They tend to blame the party for the defection citing the administration's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment and to reproductive freedom, the failure of the president to appoint more women to policy-making roles, and the policies taken on such issues as nuclear war and crime.

Kathy Wilson, a Republican, is chairwoman of the National Women's Political Caucus, has said Reagan's stand on women's issues could cause the Republican Party serious political losses in the months to come. "It is a critical time for both the Republican Party and for women. If the former doesn't accommodate the latter, its time in the sun will be brief," she said in a recent Washington Post story. "They're going to be upset by the fact Democrats have it because we alienated 53 percent of the population!"

According to NBC News International political writer Cley F. Richards, the Republicans are worried and are admitting privately, if not publicly, that perhaps they do need to spruce up their image with women. "Republicans are so worried about the women's vote in the 1982 congressional elections that their campaign manual urges candidates to play up their identification with women's groups wherever possible," Richards wrote.

Rich Galen, press secretary for the National Republican Congressional Committee, does timidly admit that it is a trend they are watching, but he disagrees on the causes. "It is the economic uncertainty that is the primary factor," he said. "Women are moving away from concern about women's issues now. Their concerns are the same as men's, although they find the situation more jolting because they haven't been looking at these issues in this light before."

Galen feels that the party can best attract women to its cause by "doing a better job of making everyone, men and women, understand our (economic) program and what we hope to do with it." He is quick to add, however, that the Republican Party has by no means abandoned women. "The Republican Party has more women in Congress than the Democrats, and the executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee is a woman, Nancy Sinnott, who is responsible for raising and spending upwards of $37 million for congressional candidates this fall," he said.

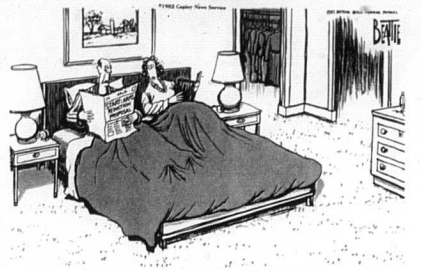
While some Democrats feel that their party has always been more open to women and more supportive of women's issues, they too are reacting to the recent polls and are looking at women in a new light. Congressman "Skipper" Martin, executive director of the Democratic Party in Kentucky, sees women as a great resource. "Because of the economic situation and the Republican's handling of it, women out there are definitely more and more women who want to be in all levels of politics," he said. "In the past, men have been the ones to make things happen and women have been the recipients of whatever decisions were made. Now women realize they must make things happen themselves and can actually direct the momentum of the country."

Martin said women have perhaps lacked the experience of dealing with politics. "They are saying, 'We are ready but where do we go? What do we do?'" he said. To channel this enthusiasm and to involve more women in the party, Martin said Paul Patton, state chairman of the Democratic Party, will begin a series of political seminars this summer, "designed to teach women the ABC's of politics, everything from polling to fund-raising, all levels of campaigning."

Martin added that there are already many women in policy-making positions within the Democratic Party in Kentucky and "we definitely see more women interested in this type of role."

Democrat Martin, as well as many Republicans, views the fall congressional elections as critical. "It's really the ultimate poll," he said. "A vote for a Republican indicates approval for the president and where this administration is going; a vote for a Democrat expresses disapproval. The results should be interesting."

So the courtship goes on. Republicans make mighty efforts to woo women back, all the while saying there is really no serious problem. Democrats, sensing women are smiling favorably upon them, offer bouquets of strong support for women's issues and a sympathetic ear to the problems women face today. And the choices women make, their political clout firmly in hand, could change the course of this country.



"I'll sleep a lot easier when both sides can only annihilate each other five times over instead of ten!"

Agree or not

Kentucky's political comedy

by S.C. Van Curen

Now that the primary is over, the political comedy can begin in earnest in the congressional races in Kentucky.

There will be opposition in only five of the seven districts. Reps. Carl Perkins of the Seventh and Carroll Hubbard of the First are without opposition in November. Of the five others, Hal Rogers in the Fifth and William Natcher in the Second appear to have easier races than the other three.

The Third, Fourth and Sixth Districts appear to be the ones where the vote might have a chance, although it's always a slim one to defeat the incumbent.

Veteran Democrat Ron Mazzoli in the Third will be opposed by Republican Carl Brown who gained a lot of name recognition over the past two years with his legal battle to retain his seat as a Jefferson County Commissioner. Reapportionment also added more conservatives to the district that used to encompass chiefly the strong Democratic areas of Louisville, but reapportionment brought many conservative voters into the ranks this year.

In the Fifth District incumbent Republican Gene Snyder will face State Rep. Terry Mann, D-Newport.

Sixth District

Political observers are keeping their eyes on the Sixth District in Central Kentucky where incumbent Republican Larry Hopkins will be challenged by Democrat Don Mills who is a former editor of the Lexington Herald and served as press secretary to Gov. Edward T. Breathitt.

Hopkins is the first Republican to serve the district since Reconstruction days. He is in his second term and has seemed to satisfy the conservative bent of his constituents.

There just isn't much difference in philosophy that the two candidates can talk about during the race.

The economy is likely to be the chief contention of Mills who has announced he will try to lay the blame on President Reagan and the Republican majority in the Senate while the Democrats still control the House where the money bills must originate.

Modern communications is likely to be the most formidable opponent any candidate has, regardless of party. It is going to be extremely difficult to make the informed public believe that the opposition harbors all of the evils that beset today's economy.

There's plenty of blame to go around, including an electorate that expects the impossible in public money and projects, but continually complains about taxes and the federal deficit.

Comical

The present situation is somewhat comical. President Reagan has asked tax cuts in an effort to reduce the budget deficit. That's fine until it hits someone's project or pocketbook.

Congress is yelling about the growing deficit, but at the same time voting money bills that further overrun the budget. A prime example is how a proposal to appropriate a billion dollars for low interest loans as a subsidy to the ailing housing industry.

The majority of the Democrats in Congress are supporting this measure along with some Republicans in opposition to the President. They are talking out of both sides of their mouths and expect the public to believe that it's the other fellow causing all of the problems.

With this in mind, how is a Kentucky candidate for Congress going to convince the electorate that he can go to Washington and turn things around all by himself and cure our problems?

Down Memory Lane

Bill Gilley gets his Masters

Thursday, June 7, 1962

The newly remodeled museum at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park in Robertson County is one of the future attractions among the Kentucky Parks Department's museums and districts, Parks Commissioner Edward V. Fox reports.

Alex Miller Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Miller Sr., Millersburg, is the recipient of the Charlie Martin Alumni Award of Millersburg Military Institute for 1962.

Bill Gilley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Gilley, who will receive his Masters Degree in physical education in August from the University of Kentucky, has accepted a position as instructor of physical education at UT, in Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Gilley is a 1956 graduate of Carlisle High School.

Miss Luann Ellington was chosen Miss Nicholas County at the annual 4-H Club Style Review held recently at Nicholas County High School.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Joe Dampier of Cincinnati, a daughter, Debra Lynn, May 27 at Christ Hospital.

— To Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Kelley, a son, June 3 at Nicholas County Hospital.

— To Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Livingood, a son, Darrell Wendell, June 3 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lane Agee, a son, Chris Lane, May 31 at Bourbon County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Gladys Ruth Clinkenbeard and Pvt. Robert Eugene Curtis, Friday at the First Christian Church.

DIED — Mrs. Elizabeth Margarite Beno, 85, Cynthiana, Friday at the Collins Nursing Home. — Raymond Bishop, 32, East Bernstadt, Thursday at Harrison Memorial Hospital. — Everett Mason Thomason, 87, Monday at the Virginian Nursing Home in Paris. — Mrs. Mattie J. Sargent, 85, Paris, Saturday in Bourbon County Hospital. — Harry Henry, 67, Saturday at Nicholas County Hospital.

Thursday, June 4, 1942

Fifty years ago yesterday a young Robertson County fellow came to Carlisle. He had a wife, a baby son and a dollar in his pocket. He must of gotten that second dollar, for he must have gotten several of them. For J.H. Fulton has been in the barber business which carries his name ever since he came to Carlisle.

Miss Jane Allen Judge, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson Judge, near Moorefield, suffered a fracture of her right arm recently when she fell from a horse.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dorton, a daughter, Wednesday at home on Mulberry Street. — To Mr. and Mrs. Wilborn Dorton, a son, Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Ray Caswell, a son, Thornton Lee, May 14. — To Mr. and Mrs. Fisher Gaffin, New York City, a son, Theodore Fisher, Tuesday.

MARRIED — Miss Bettie C. Bowen and George Mason McCord Monday by the Rev. Estal L. Taylor. — Miss Elizabeth Lee Foley and Dr. Scott Whitehouse, Tuesday, June 2, in Versailles. — Miss Helen Wallace Barbee and James Thomas Harper, June 1. — Miss Helen Pope, Brooksville, and Elles Boyd, Bethel, Sunday. — Miss Edna Helen Neal and William George Flora, Wednesday.

DIED — Miss Jane B. Tilton, 78, Tuesday at home on Broadway. — Owen Mann, 70, Monday at home. — Eugene Berry, 29, Wednesday. — David Mynear, 74, Saturday at home in Centerville. — Lewis Thomas Higgins, 93, Thursday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mollie H. Quartel.

Thursday, June 9, 1922

Bids will be received Tuesday for the treatment of 7.12 miles of highway in the county.

Nicholas summer school will open for a six weeks' term, with 45 teachers expected to attend.

Maysville has the Blue Grass League title won with 12 wins in 13 games.

The Carlisle City Council ordered two sidewalks laid.

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Op-Ed page

'This won't hurt a bit' . . . maybe sting a little when your head hits ceiling

If you ever had a doctor to put a finger on your prostate trouble or a dentist clean your teeth with ultrasound, you just have to conclude there is an awesome communications gap between the medical profession and the patients when it comes to the business of pain.

I make this observation because I am an expert on pain. I can be severely hurt trimming my toenails.

There are probably some different opinions of pain. To me, pain is anything even slightly uncomfortable that is caused by someone sticking, poking, jabbing, hitting or pushing me. To the medical profession, pain would be something like amputation of your right leg without first giving you an aspirin tablet.

No red-blooded American male likes to ask a doctor, "Is it going to hurt?" No more so than asking your garage mechanic, "Is it going to cost much?" as he tears down your car's engine for a major overhaul. The doctor is likely to say, "It might sting a little" just as the greasemonkey will probably sneer, "You can stand it."

They use the word "sting" a lot in medicine. It seems to be standard for anything that's likely to bring out anything from a small "Ouch!" to a roof-rattling "Y-y-i-e-e-p!"

When a doctor says, "This might sting a little bit," and he plants his feet to avoid haymakers and mule kicks, he really means "Have you ever been bitten by a large crocodile with very sharp teeth?"

Beware of other phrases a doctor might substitute just to throw you off-guard. "You might feel a little pressure here" means a 10-ton truck is about to run over you. Or "This might pull a little." That's what the Spanish Inquisition torturers used to say to enemies of the state just before they put them on the rack. It could mean your stomach is about to be moved up into your throat and even though you are not an expert on anatomy, you can't help believe your stomach hasn't any business way up there.

The next time it is about to happen to you, take the fastest bus out of town, even if you are naked. It is better to be embarrassed than "pulled."

"I did this same thing to a 6-year-old boy this morning, and he didn't even whimper": Had the child been conscious, it would have been different.

"Now that wasn't so bad, was it?: No, not if you are used to finishing last in a broadaxe fight.

"Very few of my patients have ever complained about this procedure": I am sure you are right, Dr. Quincy.

"This may tingle a little when the needle hits the nerve": Look around for a soft place to land—providing you come down off the ceiling.

"I think the anesthetic has had plenty of time to take effect?: plenty of time to me is like a week from Tuesday.

"This will be over before you know it, just relax": The doctor is just trying to buy time before you start hurting him back, and you will notice on this one, he always aims himself toward the door.

For once, I'd like to find a doctor who will tell me "This is going to hurt like hell" when he prepares to take my blood pressure and sends out for double bourbons on the rocks to prepare us both for the horrible ordeal.

— RM —

In case you sometimes go to the bathroom without any profound thoughts on your mind, a company has come out with bathroom tissue imprinted with some of the great thinking of our times.

Who would have ever thought you could come out of a bathroom a lot smarter than when you went in simply by soaking up some of these choice little gems:

- If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent them, then a fifth way will promptly develop. Every solution breeds new problems.
- When the plane you are on is late, the plane you want to transfer to will be on time.
- Every revolutionary idea in science, politics, art or whatever evokes three immediate reactions: It is impossible—don't waste your time; it is possible but it is not worth doing; I said it was a good idea all along.
- The probability of a young man meeting a desirable and receptive young lady increases with pyramidal progression when he is already in the company of: (1) a date, (2) his wife, (3) a better looking and richer male friend.
- A bird in the hand is safer than one overhead.

— RM —

The latest gimmick in the marketplace these days appears to be the extended protection plan. Companies seem to be expanding into the insurance business to pick up some extra bucks which, to me, is an admission their products are probably as shoddy as in the past.

David Rohn was telling about his experience with the buyer protection plans he took out recently.

Last month I bought a new automobile. During the sales pitch the dealer told me all about what a great little vehicle I was purchasing. He said the manufacturer had taken care of the rusting problem that resulted in the previous year's models being recalled. He indicated the assembly line inspection process had been improved by computers and said I could look forward to trouble-free driving if I purchased the car.

As I forked over a deposit and started to sign the dotted line, the salesman coughed and said, "By the way, we have this great extended protection plan that covers defects on the drive train, transmission, electrical system and frame for an additional three years. It only costs you $349.99 and it's well worth it."

"Are you expecting something to go wrong with the car in the next three years?" I asked.

"Well, you never can tell," the dealer responded. "Just the other day we towed a car in here that was only four months old. The pistons froze up and the engine and transmission literally dropped out of the car, shearing off part of the front axle."

"The protection plan probably saved that car owner two or three grand."

After writing a check for the $349.99 extended protection plan, the dealer coughed again and said, "Now for a nominal sum I can sell you a supplemental extended protection plan that covers virtually everything the extended protection plans fails to cover."

"What else are you expecting to go wrong?"

"Well," he said, "this covers the little things in the car, like if the door should fall off, or a window crank snaps off or a radiator hose breaks. It will even pay for tow-in charges anywhere in the country."

For the nominal sum of $277.49 I obtained supplemental extended protection. Last week the muffler and tail pipe fell off. That somehow escaped coverage under either plan.

I also have extended protection plans on a stereo my wife bought me for Christmas, a new lawn mower, a garbage disposal and a hot water heater.

Every now and then I find myself hoping something will go wrong with one of the items so I can get some of my investment back from the extended protection plans. I don't recall in the past ever wishing new things I had just bought would fall apart or break.

Last week my wife was so excited when her hair dryer, which was covered, shorted out. After applying the $20 deductible, however, she only wound up saving 57 cents because of the extended protection plan. On the bright side, however, the plan does not expire until July, so maybe something else will go wrong with it.

What brought all of this up was a phone call I got earlier from a local mortuary firm selling a pre-packaged funeral. You guess it — they were also offering an extended protection plan.

Onward, upward.

An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren H. Fisher Sr.

May 27, 1937

Since that afternoon, when this writer and another lad dropped their cane poles and took refuge from a storm under a locust tree, perching nonchalantly on a woven-wire fence, I haven't cared for locust trees. A livid streak ripped through the clouds, shattered a big oak on the hill about 200 yards away and, when therein fright or shock, both boys picked themselves out of a jungle of burdock and fled for the house with a loathing of locust trees and wire fences.

Every boy knows, or used to know that locust trees "draw lightning." Perhaps they do, at that, for they are watery, sappy trees, frequently split and scarred by slashing bolts. No doubt that is why locusts have always seemed lacking in beauty to me, that and the association of the tree with poor land, rocky, rutted hillsides and neglected pastures.

But just at this season the locust redeems itself. This week, along the highways and fringing especially the shady sidewards they make their claim to that loveliness which is the portion of trees. For miles the air is sweet with the perfume of their blossoms, a heavy aroma, much like the tangy incense of grape bloom, and the clusters hang like bunches of snow-white grapes. A few days of perfumed sunshine and the rain will beat the sweet blossoms to earth and the rough-barked, scraggly locust will slip back into its role of potentially excellent post timber. But it will have had its season of fragrance and beauty.

***

These are begot in the ventricle of memory, nourished in the womb of pia mater, and delivered upon the midwifowing of occasion. — Shakespeare.

I am, this morning of the twenty-third of May, beset by memories of a May now nine years past. I am haunted by the vesper song of a catbird that sang straight into the foolish, fatuous heart of me that fragrant, cherry-ripe week of a spring long gone. And so it is that the lighting of nine slim candles on a pink and white birthday cake, the purchase of a ubiquitous and night-wailing puppy ("Lord help us all!) and an unceasing chatter, electric in its excitement and very feminine in its tone, bring for me the "mellowing of occasion" that permits, after nearly a decade, the delivery of an old rhapsody, passing fond, a bit witless perhaps, but most in the manner of a doting male parent, to-wit:

"To the shop and at this, that and t'other until noon, when home to a mess of jowl and greens, some corn dodgers and a mug of buttermilk, mighty tasty. With which refreshed, we take coach, my young son and I, and are away in the fine mellow sunlight to see my new daughter, Mistress Barbara, lately come to this world with the locust blossoms. And I am minded of a ballad of Old England that yet lives along the creeks and coves of our Kentucky Highlands:

All in the merry month of May,
When the green buds they were swelling,
Sweet William came from the western states
And courted Barbara Allen.

A quaint old fashioned name and I think my wife has chosen well in this, as I find she does in all things.

"So, right well content with my thoughts and the chatter of my son through this region upon which God smiled with loving tenderness in the making, I am sure. For the beauty of the Bluegrass grips at me with a poignancy that is allied pain and this late spring, it seems to me, never did I see the rolling fields so beautiful never so rich a profusion of greens in sod and leaf. Chlorophyll brings the coloring, my boy tells me, leaving me a marvel at the lore that little lads pick up in schools these days. Sure a sovereign chemical this chlorophyll must be and mixed by a master hand.

"And now we pass a rolling pasture, dotted with giant ash and walnut, beneath the shade of which stand fat red cattle, making a picture of such surpassing loveliness that I am seized by a feeling of incapacity to drink this cup of beauty deeply enough. And it comes upon me that perhaps it is that which mixes the colors to make this charming scene that I seek back of all this beauty and finding not, feel futile. Heigho! Ever we must be seeking in this life and no one yet has found.

"Soon to the hospital and find my wife, poor wretch, well and cheerful and the prettiest madonna I did ever see, But mankike I stand a very nuisy in the new mystery of my new daughter. And a good sister does ask if I am my wife's father, which takes the wind out of my sails completely, but a compliment to my wife, in a manner of speaking. And so I look and marvel at this baby and it comes to me that here too is the hand that sends the sun-kissed sap back to nurture the growing tree; here the master artist who paints the charming canvases of spring is at work on his masterpiece, a human blossom.

With much pleasant chit-chat the day is spent and we drive home through the pleasant twilight, but so chilly that I kindle me a fire upon the hearth and sit there a while.

"And now I think that I know why my catbird sings from his plum tree by the sleek curved bow of a bird, brooding her young in the deutzia bush. And I would sing, but cannot, and though I invoke the muse with fervor, there before the glowing embers all that pops into my head is a silly, dear old rhyme, drifting back to me from childhood days:

O, the duck chews tobacco and the drake drinks wine —
Singsong kitty, won't you kimeo?
And the June bug's sittin' on the sweet potato vine —
Singsong kitty, won't you kimeo?
Kimeocome and o-himeohome!
Romstick, bomstick, lickedot!

His 'em in the head o-with a brickabot!

After the publication of which I shall doubtless be convicted of idiocy, or worse. But it has a swing, if you know the tune, and it brought slumber in the circle of safe arms to fretful babies long ago.

***

"So, late and mighty contentfully to bed, and drowsing, there come to me lines from my boy's prayers, which he asked me to "hear" tonight:

Father, I thank Thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.

The Hand that mixes the chlorophyll
Is wonder."

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In this corner....

by Jim Butler Wanke

Older people going to college

Last Friday I was a guest lecturer at Morehead State University's Summer Writers Workshop, at the invitation of Drs. Cunningham and Glasser, and was pleased to find some older people in the class.

There have been stories recently that older people have been going back to college, but this was the first time I had met any face to face.

One woman in the class was 72 and was much interested in keeping some of the family tales from disappearing after her generation. She now lives in Rowan County, but grew up in Johnson County (Paintsville) and still fresh in her mind are many stories of her youth, and how things were in the early part of this century.

Another in the class of 25 aspiring writers was a middle-aged gentleman from Fleming County who is interested in genealogy, and not only his own family history, but others as well. He has already written several articles and is interested in writing several more.

And in case you thought it wasn't a small world, one young man who is a beard in the class who was from Wyoming, flipped out when he heard I was the editor of the Mercury in Carlisle.

For, you see, his great-grandfather used to live in Carlisle during the 1800's and left here to go west, young man, go west.

There is much to learn from a study of the past, but there is also a trap that should be avoided. That is the tendency to assume that what is in the past may be better than what we have today. Studying the past is also an escape for some. They bury themselves in what has already gone by, hoping to find the reasons for their existence in 1982.

Many who are dissatisfied with life in 1982, attempt to imitate the lifestyle and even the behavior of those who lived many years ago, hoping to recapture what they see as a more simple life with less stress.

Nothing wrong with doing this as a hobby, just make sure you're not "copping out" on 1982.

It was a pleasing experience to visit the university, and to see the cross-section of American life present in that writers classroom.

Anyone who thinks America is dead, ought to visit a college class. It is full of intelligent, earnest people intent on learning things new, intent on renewing themselves.

It made me feel a lot better about myself too. For I am one of those who expresses fear that the younger generation will never amount to anything because they are so caught up in "escapism" and "fantasy."

I rest a bit easier today.

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