

Opinion

Of prizes and politics

All those voters who pruned in casting their ballots this November in the hopes of winning a prize will be disappointed to hear that the U.S. Justice Department has nixed the voter sweepstakes idea.

The first — and, no doubt, last — voter giveaway took place recently when California voters were promised a chance to win a prize if they voted in their ballot stub to Hollywood producer Ed Shaw — the brains behind this scheme. The invitation drew 70,000 voters. Shaw had planned to repeat this in November, and

other states were working on their own plans for a ballot bonus.

But, according to the Justice Department, the sweepstakes violates a 1946 federal law which makes it a crime "to pay or offer to pay or accept payment or other consideration to vote or for voting."

The law is sensible. Shaw's attitude that candidates should be fun is not. Admittedly, some recent campaigns have been conducted in a manner similar to that of a three-ring circus, but that's no reason to give door prizes.

Assassination victims

President Reagan has announced the formation of the James S. Brady Foundation — a nationwide fund-raising drive to provide assistance to needy victims or families of those killed or wounded in assassination attempts.

The foundation is named in honor of the president's press secretary who was shot in the head on March 30, 1981, during the attempted assassination and wounding of Mr. Reagan. The attack came while the president was walking from the Washington Hilton to his limousine after he had addressed a labor meeting.

John W. Hinckley Jr. was tried for the shooting, which wounded the president. Brady, a Secret Service agent and a police officer. He was found innocent by reason of insanity.

In announcing the foundation, the president said that he and Mrs. Reagan are proud to be the personal sponsor because of a concern for people

such as Brady and because of their desire to see financial assistance provided for any victims of assassination attempts.

The foundation will provide financial help to any needy individual wounded or killed in an assassination attempt on any senior federal official, presidential candidate or any family member of the president or the vice president of the United States. James T. Lynn, a Washington attorney, will serve as president of the foundation.

A number of business and political leaders created the foundation as the "Stand By Fund." It was later named for Brady because of his demonstration of courage throughout his ordeal.

The fund is a worthy cause. Contributions to it are tax deductible. The address is: Brady Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20066.

The dieter's Laetrile

The slim claim dieters can eat all the pasta and potatoes they want without adding inches to their waistlines. Pound-by-pound consumers simply take a "starch blockers" pill an hour or two before a dinner of pizza and you can forget about the starch blockers. But the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says otherwise. The product it announced the other day, have been proven neither safe nor effective, and it has requested the makers and distributors of the product to stop marketing it until they can show evidence that it works, and works safe.

Starch blockers are made from raw beans, the extract of which supposedly stops the body's production of an intestinal enzyme that digests starch. Therefore, say the manufacturers, if starch is not absorbed into the body, less weight will be gained. In response, a number of dietary experts charge that in so doing, starch blockers also stop the body from absorbing protein. Some users have also complained of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pains.

The case is almost certain to end in the courts. The FDA has ordered the manufacturers to provide evidence of the product's safety and effectiveness within 10 days or face regulatory action — inventory seizures and injunctions against the manufacture and sale of starch blockers. But one of the makers, Bio-Tech Laboratories, says otherwise. The product is safe to block the FDA's action. The agency has no authority in this matter, says Bio-Tech, because starch blockers are a food, not a drug.

It's hard to make a judgment on that issue, but it's not hard to take the FDA's warning to heart. Food or drug, questions of safety and efficacy remain paramount. The desire to shed pounds so effectively and quickly as possibly has led many dieters to "miracle" diet pills which, as users learn their hard-earned money, and, in some cases, their health, while the pounds stay put. As long as dieters believe these magic pills exist, there will be a market out there for any charlatan to cash in on. But in this, as in other things, the consumer ought to be warned. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Letters

Nellie Crump
To the Carlisle Mercury: I am pleased to inform you that the Kentucky Gas System Restoration Project (GSRP) Account Review Commission has approved a loan in the amount of \$100,000 to assist in the construction of the Carlisle Municipal Gas Distribution System. This loan is a community development block grant, the bank and loan funds, for the restoration of the entire system.

You will be contacted by the Department of Local Government soon regarding the loan. We are quite confident that the construction of this underground gas line is an accomplishment of the funding program, and we wish to congratulate you on this. I am glad that this loan can be made for such a worthwhile project.

Thanks Mercury
To the Carlisle Mercury: This is to express to you my sincere appreciation for your coverage and reporting of Community Action Day. The article provided me with the information, and we are hoping to have some new residents because of this. We feel our services are worth while, especially for the working mothers in our county.

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.
Margaret Hines
Harris Program Coordinator

George Atkins sends copy of letter to mayor
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Sandi Letton thanks helpers
To the Carlisle Mercury: The Carlisle Community Women's Support Group is pleased to announce that the Kentucky Gas System Restoration Project (GSRP) Account Review Commission has approved a loan in the amount of \$100,000 to assist in the construction of the Carlisle Municipal Gas Distribution System. This loan is a community development block grant, the bank and loan funds, for the restoration of the entire system.

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Agree or not The gubernatorial candidates

By S.C. Van Curen
Hiram Henshaw, Cabinet Secretary Gray Stumbo resigned to become a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor in next year's primary, the political picture becomes more complex.

The Stumbo resignation has created more political talk and the resignation of the governor's cabinet secretary has created more talk. It is a candidate for lieutenant governor, the Democratic primary is no longer a race between the Hickey and Stumbo camps.

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One problem that Metts would face would be getting into a race and campaign that will be crowded with candidates from Jefferson County for statewide office.

Word from Louisville is that there may be at least one candidate from Jefferson County for every statewide office on the ballot. This won't be with voters across the state.

While Stumbo has to announce his own candidacy soon, he has to date in Lexington in the Democratic race for governor.

But Conley is the last governor from the eastern part that has been more than 20 years ago. All Democrats following him, up to Brown, have been from Western Kentucky, Shelbyville, Ford and Carroll.

Republican Louis B. Nunn, following Ford, was from Glasgow which is located in the eastern part of the state.

Terry McCreary of Greenup was the last Democrat to hold the office of governor. He had support of the Carroll administration and later the Democrat administration and Nunn kept on from London to Hazard, virtually completing the arched system and from Hazard to Prestonsburg.

Now, it's up to the Republicans to get some candidates into the field so they can capture the office by default.

Raymond Overstreet, the Republican representative from Liberty, has announced for governor and is the only candidate in the party running for statewide office.

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Op-Ed page

Don't expect too much... Reagan is the Campaigning President

One of my favorite columnists, Arthur Hoppe, was telling about an activist friend of his, Adam Hoppe, who knocked on his door with a petition to impeach Ronald Reagan. Hoppe was shocked and demanded to know why Hoppe would give Ron the old saw-tooth. "It's a nice fellow," I (Hoppe) said. The rest of the conversation went like this:

"So," said Fenton. "And thanks to his simplistic theories, a Great Depression is just around the corner unless World War III gets us first."

"You're forgetting," I said, "that he's got a great smile."

"Oh, you're just like a rest of the country," said Fenton dispassionately. "You think he's a nice guy who's doing a lousy job."

"I happen to think he's doing a wonderful job," Fenton said. "You're a problem that you don't know what his job is."

"No, he's one of our presidents," I said. "This country has simply grown too large and unmanageable to be run by a single man. And the current administration is the first to recognize that fact. The truth is that Mr. Reagan is our Campaigning President."

"What's that?" asked Fenton suspiciously.

"Historically," I patiently explained, "a president has always had two functions: As a Working President, he had to knock heads together, devise Machiavellian political ploys and make the hard, tough decisions that determined the course of our ship of state."

"That's my kind of president," said Fenton.

"Equally important," I explained him, "the Campaigning President must hug the Eastern Seaboard child, attend banquets for starving old ladies, welcome home heroes and campaign with Congress and the public for a policy decision he's made. It's just become too much for one man."

"Whoever heard of a Campaigning President?" said Fenton with a snarl.

"That's the one the people vote for," I said. "Every four years they pack the best campaigner. And whether or not he'll make a good Working President has little to do with it. You'll have to admit Mr. Reagan is a great campaigner. Look at his record."

"Well..." said Fenton dubiously.

"The only that bothers him," I said, "is that modest dash of the head, the little quip, the firm handshake, the purposeful stride, the sincere frown. These are all signs of a superb actor. It's no wonder Mr. Reagan is the greatest Campaigning President in American history."

"How do I know he isn't the Working President?" asked Fenton.

"You ask about a man who's so taking his sixth vacation in 17 months? A man who isn't even up for when there's a crisis? Hang you over once been a picture of Mr. Reagan working?"

An editor's random thoughts...

By Warren R. Fisher Sr.

Up to find the sparkling, amber sunlight of a September morning. And when I had finished the first page of the book, I was struck by the fact that the book was written by a man who had been a member of the KKK.

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"I saw a photo of his opening a meeting in the White House." "Certainly," I said. "The photographers are called in. The Campaigning President opens the meeting. The photographers are sent out. And the Campaigning President goes to take his nap. Everyone in Washington knows that."

"Okay," said Fenton. "Then who's the Working President?" "It's a committee," I said. "Weberberger, Davest, Clark..."

"As last you've conceived me?" cried Fenton. "Looking at the mess the country's in, I should have known it was being run by a committee. Sign here and I'll impeach them all!"

"Just as long as you leave Mr. Reagan out of it," I said, being a fair-minded man. "He hasn't done anything."

"That's the one the people vote for," I said. "Every four years they pack the best campaigner. And whether or not he'll make a good Working President has little to do with it. You'll have to admit Mr. Reagan is a great campaigner. Look at his record."

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As, so, Mr. Ambassador, but you failed to mention that your report scheme is just about as sneaky as the Pearl Harbor attack. We cannot make you our country without mountains of red tape, threats and high tariffs, but you can get your staff over here, cut our throats and the problem is all ours.

"Your neck is what keeps your head on your shoulders, which is sort of like shelves..."

"Your arms are what you have to pitch a softball with and so your hands you can scratch, throw a curve and add arithmetic. Your legs are what you have to use to get your feet on the ground. Your feet are what you run on, and your toes are what get stubbed. And that is all there is of you, except what's inside, but I've never seen that."

"I'm a teacher once asked her class to write an essay on anatomy. One girl wrote: 'Your head is kind of hard, and your brains are in it, and your hair grows out of it. Your face is in front of your head where you eat.'"

"You're kidding, I wonder if I could speak with you for a moment?"

"What's Smalley? I'm afraid, but..."

"I've about my salary, sir. I wonder if you could give me a decrease?"

"You had a decrease less than a year ago, Smalley?"

"I know, sir. I wouldn't ask it wasn't very important. But I need more money."

"The conversation continued. Smalley wanted a \$25 decrease, the boss wanted to lower it only \$15. The boss explained that the company had a budget and the figures were way under budget and, too, the union was furious about it."

"Also, if I made \$25 less, my own salary could go for a federal scholarship and could also get his health fixed."

"The boss consented to the \$25 decrease, but admonished Smalley: 'If you work slips, you will take a \$10 raise, no questions asked. And, oh, yes, Smalley, when you get into your place, invite me over for some terms and a visit.'"

"Certainly, yes," Smalley replied. "I believe the poor should share with the best fortunate."

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