Opinion

Basketball complaints

This past week, we received complaints that we have not provided sufficient coverage for the Nicholas County High School varsity basketball team.

While there is some credibility to this complaint we want you to know that we have tried.

Last fall we were successful in getting someone to cover high school football for us. But when the basketball season started we spent over a month looking for someone to provide us with news of the boys team and we could find no one.

The financial restraints of the newspaper business do not allow us to employ someone strictly to do sports coverage. Therefore, we must rely on parents, those who follow basketball, the school system, coaches and others to get this coverage to us.

So let this be a notice for the 1983-84 school year to come. We are looking for someone, preferably a student who would like some training in journalism, to provide us with football and basketball coverage for NCHS beginning this fall.

We are willing to pay a modest amount for this and it is good training for someone who is going on to college. If you are interested in this, stop by the Mercury office.

Another factor is that our former editor was young, single and interested in high school sports when he was here. Therefore our readers became accustomed to what can only be described as "outstanding" basketball coverage in the Mercury. Our current editor is older, married with four children, and lives on a farm in another county.

GM-Toyota plant

It's clear that the joint venture of General Motors Corp. and Toyota Motor Co. in Fremont, Calif., will be bringing about labor changes.

The two auto firms announced they will reopen the Fremont GM plant in the fall of 1984 and will need to hire 3,000 workers to construct a Toyota-designed subcompact.

The Fremont plant closed in March 1982, laying off 6,000 employees represented by the United Auto Workers. The UAW is demanding that these workers be hired back first, on a seniority basis.

Leaders in the joint venture say the UAW contract, which expires in September 1984, is no longer applicable, because an entirely new company is being formed. "We are going to start from scratch," said Toyota Chairman Eiji Toyoda. "We are going to hire new people."

At present, production costs in the United States are much higher than those in Japan. Japan spends fewer man-hours per vehicle and has a$ 8-per-hour advantage in labor costs.

These and other factors give the Japanese a net cost advantage of $1,718 per car when comparing the Toyota Corolla against the Chevrolet Chevette.

The UAW has been cooperative in attempts to solve the problems of the nation's auto industry by rolling back its members pay and benefits. It is a progressive labor union.

Nevertheless, the UAW is hardly likely to accept the hiring conditions laid down by the new Fremont venture. It will fight for the seniority rights of its members.

We side with the automakers. It is important that the joint venture gets off to a fresh start; otherwise it will not be competitive with Japanese firms — and that is the whole purpose of the Fremont venture.

The new firm should be able to hire workers at competitive pay scales. The workers, once they are hired will have the right to vote to join the UAW or remain independent.

Key to recovery

There is a consensus building among economists that the recession officially ended in December or January. Such a conclusion is inescapable from the recent flurry of positive economic indicators — a sharp upturn in industrial production, a firming of retail sales, a record rate of inventory liquidation in the last quarter of 1982.

For all this good news, we are also being warned by the same economists that the recovery is going to be modest, that unemployment will remain distressingly high perhaps through all of 1983. What is hard to accept is that a recovery which is something less than spectacular is exactly what the doctor ordered. A more rapid recovery would risk reigniting inflation and put us back where we started from when the Federal Reserve began putting the money supply through the wringer in 1979.

Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker indicated in his recent testimony before the Senate Banking Committee that the Fed is not about to abandon its inflation-fighting stance for the sake of encouraging recovery with a pumped-up money supply. The Fed has been under pressure from some quarters to help bring interest rates down by allowing the money supply to grow at a faster rate.

Forcing down interest rates in that manner, said Volcker, would not be successful for long. The resulting inflation eventually would carry interest rates back to a level bringing recovery to a halt.

MX and the Armadillo

Maybe its a law of military strategy that increasingly difficult problems require increasingly preposterous solutions. Such a law seems to be operating at the Pentagon bureaus charged with solving the putative problems known as Minuteman vulnerability.

This problem has to do with the technical fact that the fleet of U.S. land-based, fixed-silo Minuteman missiles is now, or will soon become, vulnerable to an attack by accurate Soviet missiles.

Those who fret over vulnerability regret, or attach little importance to another fact: The Soviets would have to pay an unacceptable price for destroying those Minuteman missiles — namely, devastating reprisals by surviving U.S. forces based in the air or at sea. Since the price of exploiting this advantage is unacceptable, the problem of Minuteman vulnerability is vastly more theoretical than real.

Still, U.S. planners seek to overcome it, and thus have proposed a new missile, the MX, and various ways to deploy it. Some deployment schemes seem to have been devised by Rube Goldberg.

There was the "Big Bird" scheme (wherein the 96-ton MX missiles would be carried aloft in giant aircrafts), the "race-track" scheme (wherein the MX missiles would be shuttled around to shelters arrayed along a giant roadway), and the "dense-pack" solution (in which the missiles would be spaced closely together, on the theory that attacking missiles could not hit their target without destroying each other in the process). For one reason or another, these and about 30 other deployment schemes have been rejected.

Undaunted, the Reagan administration has asked a commission to find a solution. This commission is now said to be focusing on what appears to be the goofiest scheme of all, one that might be called, "Midgetman Rides the Armadillo."

Under this arrangement, some of the planned MX missiles would be placed in existing Minuteman silos. In addition, a new missile would be built, much smaller than the MX. Earlier versions of this smaller missile were called the "Midgetman" in some Pentagon studies.

Each of the smaller missiles would be installed in a new, heavily armed carrier (called an "Armadillo") that would roam around in U.S. military bases. In addition to their armor, the Armadillos would have a low silhouette and be able to anchor themselves to the ground, lest they be capsized or destroyed in an atomic attack.

The best solution never seems to occur to the high-domed types studying this problem. They should accept the commonsense fact that not even Flash Gordon could guarantee the survival of a sitting target against a nuclear attack. And they should concentrate on protecting forces that really can be protected.

Agree or not

New governor will have many problems and money is at top of list

by S.C. Van Curon

The promising season has begun with more schedules as the tempo continues to increase in the Democrat primary until the primary in May.

Unless the Republicans field a viable candidate with sincere party support, particularly in funding, the spring show will be left to the Democrats with no second act of interest in November.

A caution warning about promises to the electorate is very much in order. The next governor is going to face a multitude of problems with money topping the list. As always, seldom is there sufficient income for the state to meet all of the demands of the citizenry.

The built-in increases to keep pace with natural growth and inflation probably will outrace growth in income as has happened during the Brown administration, requiring cutbacks in personnel and some services. It is debatable whether the reduction in personnel has in reality saved the state money in the light of personal service contracts and increased pay to the chosen few of the Brown hierarchy, plus the entourage of drones, despite the claims of doing away with political patronage. Conversation is cheap, but proof is more difficult and seems to be dismissed and lost in continued claims of efficiency and savings where government is run "like a business."

Unless the economy takes a decided upturn, the state debt can well become a major problem as some of the facilities financed by revenue bonds fail to produce enough to meet service costs. Some are in that category as they started out that way, such as toll roads.

The rationale on the toll road financing was that they would be instrumental in increasing other facets of the state's economy sufficient to offset the road financing deficiency. Industrial development and increasing the tourist industry were frequently cited as prime factors encouraging toll road construction. The overall economy always came into the picture.

Some day the conversational numbers game has to stop as creditors demand payment and the citizenry demands maintenance of needed services or services formerly provided.

The next governor must not expect operations to be neatly packaged in categorical or related service avenues as envisioned under the sweeping reorganization under Gov. Wendell Ford.

This monstrosity never functioned as conceived, but the scatter created by more than 100 executive order changes of this administration have created more chaos and shattering or morale among employees and orderly operation for delivery of services.

Not only this, there are more changes in the planning, such as the Six-by-six personnel plan in the proposal stage that neatly delivers every operational department of government identically from the assembly line.

The amazing thing about all of these concepts or ideals about reshaping state government is that the Brown administration keeps coming forward with them almost monthly although only a few months remain in his term of rule.

Already Democratic candidates are promising to change things back to something near where Brown found it.

Shaping government into a workable machine may well be one of the major problems the next governor faces.

Down Memory Lane

4H Club gets awards; Bertha Westfall named women's recruiter

Thursday, March 21, 1963

The Nicholas County Go-Getters community 4-H Club in Nicholas County, in the annual Kentucky Utilities Company 4-H Achievement contest, were given their awards at a dinner in Paris. Those attending were Estil Noffsinger, county agent; Jackie Brannock, song leader; Cathy Mahorney, secretary; Carol Sue Wallace, president; and Mrs. James Simons, leader.

Day students will be permitted to enroll at Millersburg Military Institute for the summer session beginning June 17 for seven weeks. Girls of high school age as well as boys will be accepted for this academic program.

The Nicholas County Chapter of the Red Cross announced Monday that Morris Whiteley, county chairman, had sent a check from the local drive to the National Headquarters Relief Fund of the Red Cross to be used for flood victims in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cox, Lexington, a son, March 14 at Central Baptist Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moore, Mt. Olivet, a daughter, Linda Lou, March 11 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. John Hatton, Sharpsburg, a daughter, Joyce Ann, March 8 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tinsher, a daughter, Brenda Maelene, March 17 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Faye Yvonne Evans and Oliver Fryman.

DIED — Mrs. Ella Grover McDowell, March 13 at the McDowell Nursing Home, Mt. Olivet. — Sidney B. Florence, 81, Bartersville, Monday in the Nicholas County Hospital.

Thursday, March 25, 1943

Some time ago Major G.G. Caywood of the Coast Guards, who was in Carlisle on furlough, has been heard from and the news comes that he possibly would "take to the water" in the near future. Major Caywood is considered one of the best officers in Uncle Sam's service and is ever attentive to his duties.

Miss Bertha Westfall is named as civilian recruiter for local women personnel in the WAVES and SPARS.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. James Vice, Route 3, a son, Friday at Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Willie Duncan, Moorefield Road, a daughter, March 23 at Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sampson, a son, Sunday at Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Pvt. and Mrs. Allen T. Whaley, a son, March 16. — To Mr. and Mrs. John Mason Stewart, a daughter, March 16 at St. Ann's Hospital, Dayton, OH.

DIED — Mrs. Cora D. Stephens, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C.C. Tanner of Saltwell.

Thursday, March 22, 1900

Annie Gill of Middletown, this county, is appointed guard at Frankfort penitentiary.

L.D. Blake buys store and property from J.D. Craycraft at Miranda and takes charge of business.

Henry Darnell takes position at depot vacated by George C. King and Bert Brayfield takes Mr. Darnell's place. Mr. King was transferred to Lexington.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Barnett, a son on the 20th.

MARRIED — Miss Nannie Bell and Walter Florence, both of the county, on the 21st. — Mrs. Henrietta Douglas and George L. Moreland, both of the county, on the 15th. — Miss Mary Royse and Herndon Wills, both of the county, on the 21st.

DIED — Charles Becraft, 45, at his home near Jacktown on the 16th. — Mrs. James H. Gaunce, 62, at her home near Saltwell on the 20th. — Mrs. Mary Gilbert, 60, at her home near Miller Station on the 8th.

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Op-Ed page

Thou shalt not . . . do unto others—unless you can get away with it

President Reagan said recently that the way to get this country's budget balanced, Bill Stokes was saying the other day, is to abide by the 10 Commandments and the Golden Rule. Some people wondered what Reagan was talking about.

Didn't everyone already live by the 10 Commandments and the Golden Rule? You do, I'm sure, and I certainly do. . .

There obviously was something behind the President's statement that did not meet the eye, or the ear. This is the kind of thing that stirs the investigative juices of a journalist.

Well, you may not believe this, and there indeed is good reason why you shouldn't, but here is what we discovered:

The 10 Commandments have been rewritten and updated. No one is sure who did it, not Playboy, and not Good Housekeeping, certainly. Maybe it was Fortune or the Wall Street Journal or a committee of Washington feathermerchants.

Anyway, it was done, and they obviously are the new commandments that the president was talking about. They reportedly were written on two computer disks that were carried down from the top of a mountainous office building by a man named Elroy, and they are as follows:

1. Money is the lord thy god, and thou shalt have no other gods before it.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images, or any likeness of anything that is money, except credit cards.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of money in vain, except to say, "The check is in the mail."
4. Remember payday and keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother, at least until their wills are written.
6. Thou shalt not kill, unless you are a hit man and need the work to stay off the unemployment rolls.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery, except in cases where money plays a role.
8. Thou shalt not steal, unless it is from the government or you have reason to believe that you won't be caught.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, except to try to divert the IRS from investigating your own tax returns.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, considering the size of the mortgage; nor thy neighbor's wife, unless she is rich; nor his manservant, unless he is a bookie; nor his maidservant, until she makes the first move; nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's, until the day thy neighbor goes bankrupt and there is a sheriff's sale.

Well, that's it. Once you read through the new commandments it is easy to see what the President was talking about: Obeying the commandments indeed could have an economic effect.

Originally, the Golden Rule was, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Congressional advisers decided that this [illegible] square, unhip, outdated, worn out. A copy of the minutes of the congressional committee meeting was obtained by us and shows that before settling on a new Golden rule, some of the following were considered. "Do unto others until they are done in, and then take theirs." "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you, unless you are a government employee, in which case have 'others' fill out a lot of forms and then wait." "Do others in and you will get yours." "Trickle down on others as you would have others trickle down on you." "Don't do anything and others will take care of you." "Do unto yourself and to heck with the others."

Finally, in some desperation, a new Golden Rule was adopted by the congressional committee. It is as follows: "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day."

— RM —

Rep. Mo Udall remembers walking into a small town barbershop in New Hampshire and saying in his most cheerful, jaunty candidate's voice, "Hi, I'm Mo Udall and I'm running for president."

"Yeah," said the barber, "we were just laughing about it this morning."

Now Udall says he will not make a run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984. On the day of his last hurrah, Mo was still breaking 'em up with Udallisms: "It's foreplay in which you must touch all the erogenous zones in the political body. And God help you if you overlook the gay-lesbian-Navajo coalition."

On evironment: "I don't think Ann Burford or Ann Gorsuch have done for the environment what Bonnie and Clyde did for banks."

On his Arizona hometown: "St. Joe is so small you can't even find it in your heart."

On the Senate: "You're automatically considered a presidential candidate unless you're under indictment or detoxification."

— RM —

After hearing mentioned that someone was a first child, Jane Goesi of San Francisco had this response:

"Nothing qiite prepares you for your first child—that time when you stop being someone else's daughter and start being someone's mother. When that occurs there comes an overwhelming temptation to instill every single value you have into that tiny, unsuspecting baby.

"I fell prey to that and, in 1971, with an infant in my arms, was holding forth about free schools, unstructured religion, and other absurd notions frequently held by young parents who are going to give their children 'a better life.' My father took me aside and quietly, in his own shy way, said, 'Jane, there is very little in the way of values that you can force into a child. The religious, social and political ideas that you give him will be turned aside for a while as soon as he begins to pull away from you to establish his own identity.

"About the only things you can give a child that will last are humor, trust and a fondness for his fellow man. If those are a basic part of his life and you give a quiet example of justice, honor and compassion, eventually he will see that he is what does, and his deeds come back to him. So just be yourself with the baby, and some day he will be talking to you as you are talking to me.

"Humor, trust and a fondness for one's fellow man. If you can give that, life will take care of developing character; life will deal the cards, and if nothing else they will be funning and can be shared with friends."

— RM —

A research study indicates the possibility that "passive, emotion-less people" are more likely to get cancer.

But more recently a report on another study indicated that people who tend to outbursts of anger and hostility are more likely to die of heart attacks.

We may be missing some of the subtle shadings of the psychologists' definitions of personality patterns, but we begin to get the feeling that when it comes to letting our emotions hang out, it's hell it you do and hell if you don't.

We don't know whether to accept these doomsday findings with calm passiveness or get angry about it.

— RM —

There has been a good deal of talk lately about whether teachers and principals should have the right to administer spankings to school children.

Some legislators, I heard, were discussing this subject and one stated firmly he believes that the fear of getting the wood laid to them helped kids to stay on the straight and narrow path.

"I don't know," another legislator said. "As I recall it, the only time I was ever spanked in school was for telling the truth."

Someone cleared his throat and said:

"Well, it cured you, didn't it?"

Onward, upward.

This that and 'tother

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.
August 16, 1928

(Editor's note: The following piece, published by Mr. Warren Fisher Sr., is part of the history of the Battle of Blue Licks.)

In the summer of 1782, when Kentucky pioneers had laid down their long rifles for the hoe; when Indian attacks came less frequently and from small raiding parties, there came to the frontier stations the news of the approach of a great British and Indian expedition under Captains Caldwell and McKee.

Though warned, the early Kentuckians seem to have made little preparation for defensive measures. However, General Clark, to quote Temple Bodley's History of Kentucky, "with the aid of his French friends and some friendly Indians north of the Ohio, had caused reports to be widely circulated through the enemy's country that he was about to march with a powerful army against Detroit."

"The fiction," writes Mr. Bodley, had extraordinary effect. It so confused the British and alarmed the Indians that it delayed their attack." Scouts sent out by Caldwell and McKee reported this imaginary army as gathering and actually as being enroute to Detroit, causing the Indians, who feared General Clark and regarded him as an invincible warrior, to begin to disperse.

In order to hold their forces together Caldwell and McKee began their march to the Ohio with "upwards of three hundred Hurons and Lake Indians," stopping at the river to send scouts to the Falls. It was then thought best, according to McKee, "that the main body should advance into the enemy's country and endeavor to lend out a party from some of their forts, by which we might be able to gain some certain intelligence."

There can be no doubt that the British officers were still worried and confused by the reports and the sally into Kentucky, which ended at the Blue Licks, was more in the nature of a scouting expedition than an offensive movement. "Accordingly," wrote McKee, "we crossed the Ohio and arrived (Aug. 16) at one of the enemy's settlements called Bryant's Station."

The false sense of security felt by the pioneer settlers is shown by the fact that more than three hundred Indians, marching over a well-traveled route, had crossed almost the width of Fayette County before they were discovered.

At Bryant's the bravery of the women and the sturdy defense of the Kentuckians may not be minimized, but the listlessness of the attack and the leisurely withdrawal on the 17th of August would seem to indicate that pursuit by the defenders of the station was planned and hoped for and that Caldwell and McKee were still apprehensive of Clark's march on Detroit. So, when Colonel Todd, with 32 Fayette men and Colonel Trigg, with 130 more from Lincoln, followed hastily on the morning of the 18th of August by plain trail of a force, whose strength was unknown to them, they were rushing into a trap that was to be sprung with tragic consequences at the great loop of the Licking and along the rocky ridge overlooking the Blue Licks.

Of the Battle of the Blue Licks many have written — some throughout many pages, the laconic Boone in a paragraph — yet the account of an eyewitness and a participant, be it never so brief, is, it seems to us, always interesting. Major Madison, of Trigg's command, a plain, blunt speller and as careless with his capital letters as he was expert with sword and long rifle, no doubt gives his version of the memorable fight which occurred at the Blue Licks on August 19, 1782:

"[B]t August Col. Todd and Trigg arrived at Bryant's Station, about 10 o'clock, when they were informed by Captain Craig that the Enemy had Retreated about 10 in the morning; that their numbers was inconsiderable; that he was sure they might be overtaken and...defeated by the party present, to wit 182 men. The pursuit immediately took place, following the Indian trail to Riddles, near Miles, where it was discovered that the enemy was far superior to the number supposed, and by information of Capt. Hay to Col. Boon, a large party of the enemy was also discovered at the Upper Blue Licks, eight miles from the Lower. The principal officers appeared to be confused in their council — each appearing to be afraid to speak candidly for fear of being suspected of timidity, but the whole moved forward, apparently without order. Orders then issued for the whole, when an attack should commence, but the passing the enemy before a gun was fired. Continuing the route until near day, then halted until sun-up on the 19th, when four miles from the Lick. Then marching in three parallel lines (the right led by Trigg, center by McGarry and left by Boone) to the heights opposite the Blue Licks where, on discovering part of the enemy, the whole appeared to be in the utmost confusion, each viewing the other with that consternation foreboding destruction. No Genl order given after this period. The spies venturing across the River reconnoitering the Lick, found the enemy that was discovered, had gone on. Maj. Mogary crossed with his division, after which Col. Trigg with his, and Col. Boon following.

"Raising the heights on the opposite shore, the spies still advancing returned in full speed, informed the party that the enemy was but a small distance. The cry for action was then given. The whole moved on in the order they then were, without ever forming, the front getting repulsed before the rear got near the enemy. A gind rout took place. Having an unguarded ford to retreat through, the victory became complete, the enemy was but a small distance. The cry for action was then given. The whole moved on in the order they then were, without ever forming, the front getting repulsed before the rear got near the enemy. A gind rout took place. Having an unguarded ford to retreat through, the victory became complete,

on the side of the enemy."

An ill-advised action, a hasty, hotheaded scrambling of sturdy frontiersmen into a trap prepared with consummate military skill by British officers and executed with Indian cunning, was this Battle of Blue Licks.

"See This with 's letter, page 4

In this corner...

That lovely idea called marriage

by Jim B. Wanke

"The knives need to be sharpened again."

Most husbands have probably heard that line many a time, but now, thanks to the "laser" you may not have to hear it ever again.

As any good husband knows, there are about 14 "good" ways to sharpen a kitchen knife, but no good way to have the steel edge keep its edge for a long time. Of course, this takes into consideration the fact that husbands sometimes borrow a good kitchen knife for small outdoor jobs like cutting a piece of tarpeiper or whacking through a small piece of two by four in an emergency.

Honest husbands

And like any good honest husband would, you put the knife carefully back where you found it in the kitchen and keep your mouth shut.

But the next time your wife slices a tomato, you hear it again. "The knives need sharpening." The biggest problem with this is timing. Wives always choose about 2:15 p.m. on a Sunday to say this, just as the funnies have slid out of your hand onto the floor beside the easy chair and your chin is nodding ever lower. This is also a favorite time of wives to say things like "the garbage needs to be taken out" or "I need to talk to you about the important things in our marriage."

Having already forgotten about using a kitchen knife to cut through an old piece of harness, you say in a grouchy way, "How is it possible that you get these kitchen knives so dull so fast!"

"It's the low quality of these knives you bought for my birthday," your wife answers diplomatically.

New knives available

Well, I hate to put a stop to this piece of married life folklore, but there are new kitchen knives out now that are guaranteed never to get dull.

These are the so-called Laser line of knives, just being introduced by the Regent Sheffield Company. They are fully guaranteed for 30 years against anything, or so they say.

Having already had my halvsey, let me point out that these knives have been tested by researchers who claim they cut through a board impregnated with abrasive material 300 times, and showed no sign of loss of sharpness.

Now, these are the knives for me. What a lovely idea to never have to hear "the knives are dull again" again!

As soon as I find a set of these knives, you can consider my birthday bought and they will be placed in a conspicuous spot in the kitchen.

Of course, the old knives will get removed for my personal use, like when I need a screwdriver real bad or when I need to cut through a particularly hard piece of aluminum.

Killing two birds with one knife, isn't that what they say demonstrates great intelligence? And after all, I want to keep my leadership position in the family.

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