Opinion

Swan song for GI bill

While the American Legion was celebrating the 40th anniversary of the GI Bill of Rights in June, the U.S. Senate was voting not to revive one of its' most important features, education benefits for veterans. A lot has changed in 40 years.

When GI Bill education benefits were ended in 1976, the program was no longer being used primarily to put veterans through college. Much of the benefits were going to veterans attending vocational training programs — often fly-by-night, become-a-TV-broadcaster-type programs — that seemed a far cry from the GI Bill's original purpose, which was to help World War II veterans re-enter a society and economy that had changed mightily in the 30 months, on the average, that the GI had been overseas.

The education benefits were originally seen as the down payment of a national debt owed those who had served their country. Later they were renewed as a recruitment device to get poor boys of talent and ambition to join up. But eventually they began to seem superfluous even as that.

Since the advent of the all-volunteer military, rising pay, changed "working conditions" and better training and career opportunities within the military itself have had the more powerful influence on recruitment. In 1981, when each service was allowed to have whatever education benefits program it wanted as long as it paid for it out of its own budget, only the Army felt that GI Bill-style education benefits were important enough to its recruitment effort to be worth the expense. (It instituted its own Army College Fund program, which continues still.)

So when the House recently passed a new education benefits program that the Congressional Budget Office estimates will cost $750 million a year, and when the Senate had before it a similar bill estimated to cost $1 billion a year, it seemed pretty clear that cost-effectiveness was not on their side. Only nostalgia was — nostalgia for an era when the sacrifices that veterans had made and the obligations their country owed them were both much clearer.

It was out of this nostalgia that the Senate finally passed a compromise measure, a far more modest education experiment, limited to 12,500 recruits in each of the next four years, who would have to demonstrate their commitment by taking a cut in pay during their two years of service in order to qualify for education benefits afterward. This program is estimated to cost about $20 million a year.

It is this compromise that the House-Senate conference committee is also expected to accept and, given the nation's lingering emotional commitment to the GI Bill, that would not be a terrible mistake. A $20 million experiment is not, in any case, an unreasonable amount to pay to provide college education for young men and women willing to make the kind of investment in their own future that the Senate bill requires. Apparently, this $20 million is the price of keeping alive something of the spirit of the original GI Bill, and that's not such a bad thing, as long as we don't fool ourselves about what's changed in the meantime.

He's not a has Ben yet

Two weeks from Friday the 1984 edition of the football Bluejackets will be on display before the home folks when Fleming County comes to town.

Aug. 17 also marks the beginning of the final chapter in the coaching career of Ben H. Pumphrey who has announced he'll "hang it up" after this season, 34 years after he first began to ply his trade as a junior high coach at Millersburg Military Institute in 1950.

During his varsity years Ben has an enviable record of 166 wins, 120 losses and six ties. Unofficially, only 12 other coaches in Kentucky have compiled a higher number of career wins.

He has enjoyed a winning record at five of six schools — Carlisle, Paris, Bellevue, Fleming and Nicholas. His Bath County teams of 1973-74 were 6-3-2, his only losing season.

Throw in his junior high team records and Ben's career totals would jump to 256!

He's had six district champions (Paris and NCHS) and a regional champ (Paris in 1963). By his own count 17 players have earned first team all-state honors including Blue-jackets' David McGuffey, Barry Frost, Kevin Gilkeson, Joe Rudisell, Clifford Thompson and Jimmy Smith, plus numerous all-state honorable mentions.

All CKC selections have been McGuffey, Mark Taylor, Jimmy Dale, Robert Hopkins, Eric McGuffey and Terry Ledford.

Ben is just about ad/pleased with the accomplishments of his, track teams. His 1967 and '68 Bellevue boys won the state title, while the 1979 and '80 NCHS track stars captured the sectional championship, for the examples.

His tenure at Nicholas County as head football coach has produced a 56-46 workabeel, after taking over a program that had fallen on hard times. Numbers were few and support almost non-existant in the school and business community.

Quantity and quality of players have improved through the years as has the respect for the program throughout the district and conference. Yet, even with winning seasns, fan support leaves a lot to be desired.

There's little question that the August games are a bit early, especially the Fleming game which will be played before school opens the following Monday. But since that's the way the ball bounces it falls on those of us who can make it to the games to fill the bleachers and back the Jackets.

It would certainly be a fitting way of saying "thank you for a job well done" to the retiring coach...and a vote of confidence for the young men on the field.

*****.

A postal deposit — Last week's mail brought the following letter and enclosure from Hendersonville, TN, written by former resident **Raymond Wesley Jr.:**

"My son **Jason** and I were vacationing in Oregon during July. We stopped along the roadside to pick the large blackberries. I was telling him about Carlisle, Nicholas County and the blackberries. When I got to telling him about the Blackberry Festival I recalled the anecdote you recently published about **Senator Cooper**. Jason thought it funny how you had to pay $3.50 to get him off the train in Lexington and then were never repaid.

"The story has answered a question I've considered for years. John Sherman Cooper came to Carlisle a second time (for a Nicholas County High School commencement address). My mother had prepared a pre-commencement dinner. At dinner I noticed his traveling companion carried a concealed pistol. Being 10 years old I asked Senator Cooper why? He said he felt he needed e body guard. Now I know. It surprises me you would go to such great lengths to collect $3.50!"

Raymond went on to say that he had computed the debt of 30 years in varying rates of interest and hoped the check in the amount of $27.41 would be satisfactory compensation.

"Because Senator Cooper and I are both originally from Somerset I feel the need to 'call off the dogs'. He can then use bleachers and lights were the first order of business, with the bridge and courts coming next.

Now we know.

*****.

"Absolutely tops" — That's the praise heard in describing the fish and cole slaw served at the Farm Bureau meeting last Thursday night.

And the $2 price was certainly right. The lone setback was having to move the event inside when the torrential rain hit just before serving began. It was a little muggy in the non-air conditioned school.

Nothing's perfect.

*****.

Somebody Said — The trouble with all bureaucrats, most college professors and far too many legislators is that they've never had to meet a payroll.

EAW

Here Abouts ...with Emily A. Wolf

Letters from our readers

Coverage appreciated

To The Carlisle Mercury:

On behalf of the Carlisle Community Woman's Club, I would like to thank you very much for the excellent coverage you gave our club in The Mercury during the Blackberry Festival.

We appreciate your continued interest and support of our club and our work. Thanks again.

Barbara Alnee, President
Carlisle Community Woman's Club

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I am enclosing a little note to say how much I enjoy the Mercury. I see so many names in The Mercury that I know. I saw where Pauline Tapp lives in Florida. Her family lived just above me out in used to be Liberty Heights. When she married she moved just above me. I went to school at Cassidy Creek with Allen and James Tapp, her husband. Hope she sees this in The Mercury. I was Julia Jolly before I married. I went to school with her husband.

Mrs. Julia Hellard
1187 Octavian Way
Lexington, KY 40502

"Burford is back?! Gee... she's harder to get rid of than toxic waste!"

Agree or not

Education: Who's to pay?

By S. C. Van Curen

Frankfort — Gov. Martha Layne Collins is absolutely correct in refusing to call a special session of the General Assembly to provide more money for education, and her reasons for doing so are sound.

It will take grassroots support to pass such legislation, she told the Kentucky Association of School Administrators last week, "and I'm not doing so until such support is forthcoming."

The earliest logical date will be next January when the legislature conducts its 10-day organization session in preparation for the 1986 law-making meeting. Legislators don't want to have any kind of a session before the November election, and then the holidays come.

Besides, there just isn't time now to prepare the public to support a move to provide more money for education which means an increase in taxes.

THE KASA is starting the old political game all over again. They are calling on the governor to increase taxes at the state level instead of asking their patrons at the local level to provide the money. Experience has taught KASA that votes for increasing taxes at the local level fail dismally. Besides, there are several districts in the state where the wealth of the district would not provide sufficient money even at an exhorbitant tax rate.

Legislators know that any tax increase they vote will be unpopular with their constituents unless the selling job the governor is requesting is done. They also want and need that support.

School support always has been slow to come in Kentucky. Support sunk to the depths following World War II until demand came from the grassroots to pass the Minimum Foundation Program and I'm not certain that the educators didn't receive some behind the scenes help from the vote counters.

The MFP was just the beginning. Money, and a lot of it was needed to bring the MFP and education up to a respectable level with surrounding states at that time.

A SALES TAX was the answer, but this effort failed under Gov. Chandler. It never got introduced to have a chance to pass although some people proposed it. It was later passed although it was conceived in deceit and born in subterfuge.

To satisfy the demands of war veterans who were demanding a bonus in the deep recession of the late 1950s, Gov. Chandler put a bond issue on the 1959 ballot to pay the bonus. It was to be funded by a sales tax but the question didn't state how much. Chandler didn't think it would pass because he opposed the sales tax theory, and had done so since 1935.

It surprised most everyone when it passed. Gov. Bert T. combs had the courage to ask the legislators for a three-cent tax, although a half cent would have funded the bonus. Most of the other went to education.

Gov. Louie B. Nunn got the tax raised to five percent with a lot of it going to education. But this didn't end the political game.

WHEN FEDERAL revenue sharing came into the picture, U.S. Senator Wendell Ford was in the State Senate. The state had plenty of money. Ford succeeded in getting a bill passed to take the sales tax off prescription drugs and used this successful effort to get elected lieutenant governor.

In that position, federal revenue sharing continued and so did general prosperity. Ford then got a bill passed to take the tax off take-home groceries and used this as a vehicle to propel him into the U.S. Senate.

Now we're back to needing more money, but local people had much rather it come from the state, and the state politicians want it to come from the federal government. Nobody wants the onus of increasing taxes.

As Gov. Collins says, the public will have to demand and support a tax increase.

Now, it's back to square one.

Down Memory Lane

Giffin plans $70,000 addition

Thursday, August 6, 1964

The Giffin Manufacturing Company was granted a permit by City Council Monday night to make an estimated $70,000 addition to their present facilities. Plans call for the construction of a 96-foot extension onto the present building. The company which began operation April 7, 1948, moved to its new location and resumed operation in January 1960.

Miss Judy Whitaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chad Whitaker, Moorefield was crowned Farm Bureau queen at the annual Farm Bureau fish fry July 23 at the Nicholas County High School.

Farm Bureau officers elected at the annual meeting and fish fry at the Nicholas County High School, July 23 are Emmett Darrell, president; W. O. Doyle, vice president; Ewell Clink, secretary; and Charles Watkins, treasurer.

W. E. Bramblett was entertained with a steak supper at Lake Carnico last Friday by the foreman and maintenance crew of the State Highway Department. Mr. Bramblett recently celebrated his 65th birthday and retired from the State Highway Department July 31.

Ruby Lee Darrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ray Darrell of the Locust Grove Road slipped and fell last Wednesday breaking her leg. She was treated at the Nicholas County Hospital and returned home.

The City Council has voted to annex 116.52 acres of land adjoining the new nursing home and health center. The tract has been set aside by the Nicholas Fiscal Court as an industrial area.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wells, a daughter, Faye Lovely, July 28 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. David Howard, a son, Jeffery Thomas, July 30 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Jay Mynear, Paris, a son, Melvin Jay, July 31 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Moore, Mt. Olivet, a son, Donnie Ray, Aug. 1 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sparks, a daughter, Leriasa Lane, Aug. 2 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Emery Burgess, a daughter, Anna Lou, July 30 at Mary Chiles Hospital in Mt. Sterling.

MARRIED — Miss Wilma Dampier and Danny Gail Booth, June 12 at Carlisle Baptist Church.

DIED — Thomas Kennedy, 96, Aug. 1 at home in Mt. Sterling. — Mrs. Fannie Ritchie, 94, Aug. 2 at the home of her son, Mason Ritchie, Ewing. — Eli Ritchie, 83, Aug. 2 at the Johnson Memorial Nursing Home. — Mrs. Anna Rogers McClure, 89, widow of M. Dorsey McClure, Aug. 2 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Joe Ong, Cincinnati, OH.

Thursday, August 18, 1944

First Lt. Fred J. Kendall, 25, son of W. M. Kendall, was part of a color guard which hoisted Old Glory to the top of the highest flagpole left standing on the northernmost tip of Saipan Island at 12:20 p.m. July 9.

Captain Roger Womack, commanding officer of the local unit of the State Militia since 1941 has submitted his resignation to the Adjutant General at Frankfort to become effective at once.

The Carlisle Scout Troop No. 15 was organized Feb. 9, 1944 with Everett Smith as Scoutmaster, John Barr quartermaster, John Crabb, assistant, William Newell senior patrol leader. Robert Allen Palmer is secretary-treasurer, and Billy Dale Crawford, bugler.

The Nicholas County Health department has asked that all citizens pour a quart of kerosene into the commodes Friday at 9 o'clock to help rid the town of the mosquito nuisance.

BORN — To Capt. and Mrs. Robert Hensley, twin daughters, Mary O'Hern and Jeanne Mollen, Aug. 3 at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Feeback, Wayne, MI, a daughter, Aug. 1. — To Major and Mrs. Charles H. Smith, a son, Charles Allen Friday at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wells, a son, Jimmy Dean, Aug. 7 at Johnson Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Leonard W. Fite, a son, Reagan, July 3.

MARRIED — Miss Dorothy Huddleson and Cpl. Charles Allen Eads, Aug. 2 at the First Baptist Church, Paris. — Miss Ellen Ruth Smith and Charles Edward Walden, July 28 in Maysville. — Miss Jeanne Allen Collins and Marshall Dean Smith, Saturday in Maryville, TN.

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Op-Ed page

A Grand Prix ...but not a Pete Rose belly slide down campaign trail

Now that the smoke has cleared and Minnesota Fritz and his sidekick Jerry Ferraro, have gunned down all squatters on his range, he will limp over to the U.S. Corral next November to just-draw with the Over-The-Hill Gang, led by one Sheriff Reagan and his deputy, Gentleman George Bush.

Fritz shot himself in the foot trying to impress the Southern waddies when he hired one Bert Lance, who used to case banks for the Carter Gang.

Not one to take advantage of an opponent, Mondale evened up the odds after Sheriff Reagan brought back into his bunkhouse a lady wrangler, who had been running sheep in cow country.

If bumbling was the issue, it would be a toss-up between these two Apple Dumpling Gangs. But people have short memories, so it is going to be interesting to see how the lady from New York is going to help Fritz into the presidency. This between our two countries."

— RM —

On a tombstone in a graveyard in Edinburgh, Scotland: Erected to the memory of John MacFarlane—Drown'd in the Waltir of Leith—By a few affectionate friends.

This gravestone inscription is in Winslow, Maine: Here lies the body of John Mound — Lost at sea and never found.

This one's supposedly on a tombstone in Boot Hill Cemetery, Dodge City, Kans.; Play five aces, now playing the harp.

A tour guide in Ireland shows visitors some ancient stones with mysterious writings on them. She said teams of experts had been trying to decipher them for decades but had succeeded in solving only one. When the visitors inevitable ask eagerly what the writing was, the guide solemnly says: "Here lies Murphy. We buried him today. He lived the Life of Riley, while Riley was away."

— RM —

It may be time we asked ourselves if we haven't become addicted to this thing cable? cable television. Do we need a fix so bad we'll sit through anything they beam at us?

Cable sounded great at first. You get this many stations or that many stations and you get all those movies people without cable have to drive over to the shopping center triple-cinema or a drive-in movie to watch.

"Did you see that marvelous documentary on cable last night?" someone is always asking at a cocktail party.

"No, I don't have cable."

"You don't have cable? Excuse me for asking, but how did you get invited to this party?"

I have cable. It must a short cable because I can get only a dozen or so channels. In the big cities they can do 50 channels not worth watching, so they have a great dissatvantage over me. I pay 30 bucks a month for this short cable that runs from the water tower down to my house and I can usually find a movie that was a box-office flop or one that I have already seen six times on the same channel.

One night recently, I decided to spend a quite evening in front of the tube. I get tired of going to the library night after night or getting together with my garden club to discuss begonias.

I got out my trusty cable guide and looked at the evening's schedule:

At 8 I could watch a Rolling Stones concert called "Let a Spend the Night Together" which, I was warned by the cable guide, included profanity. I would rather discuss begonias any time than listen to a group of grimy-looking Englishmen putting curse words to what is loosely called "music."

Also, at 8 I could watch "National Lampoon's Class Reunion," which didn't run in theatres long enough to finish your popcorn. "The Flipper House," or the U.S. Oildoor Track Championships.

I thought Flipper was finally eaten by Jaws and someone said it best about track. "The only thing I hate worse than track," he said, "is field."

At 10, I could watch "Hooker—American Undercover," a hardhitting documentary featuring personal accounts of the women who sell sex, nudity and profanity. Those undercover movies usually send my wife undercover. She goes to bed and puts a pillow over her head to block out the uglies.

Another channel was showing "Scandals" the story of underpaid government employees who decided to make a pot no flick, which told me it was a farce because government employees are so overpaid and are so busy either spending their money or asking congress for more, they don't have time to make dirty movies.

I don't have all that much against a little educational tease now and then, but even weirdos don't sit in front of their teevees and watch stuff while their wives are hiding under the bedcovers. They at least have the decency to put on their raincoats and go downtown to an adult theatre.

The question we have to ask ourselves is it really worth 30 to 60 bucks a month to be able to see "Leave It To Beaver" reruns on four different channels?

Gee, Wally, I think I'd rather go spit off a bridge.

Onward, upward.

RUSS METZ

Busy summer for members of Oaks Club

by Jeff Dray, reporter

The Nicholas County Oaks, a 17-member singing group, has had a very busy summer so far. On June 21 we entertained the patients and staff from the Veterans Hospital of Lexington, along with the Ladies Auxiliary of the local VFW Post, at a picnic held at the Carlisle City Lake with a 45 minute program of songs.

The following week, on June 28, the members, parents and one guest had a private swimming party at the pool at Cynthiana, followed by supper at Druthers. On July 5 we enjoyed riding in the Blackberry Festival Parade and especially enjoyed the opportunity to sing following the queen ceremonies.

On July 10 we traveled to the Ewing/Fleming County Fair to compete in the talent show, presenting not only a group entry but several solos and duets. Earlier that afternoon 10 older members accompanied by their leaders attended the funeral of Mrs. Bobby Hatton, mother of member Joe Hatton. The efforts that evening were dedicated to Mrs. Hatton and her dedication to the children in the group.

On July 25 we were in Flemingsburg to entertain at the Pioneer Trace Nursing Home. The following day we participated in the local Farm Bureau Variety Talent Contest held at the local high school, where the group entered an act, as well as two solos, and one duet.

Monday, July 30 we entertained at the Nicholas Square Apartments at a supper sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Decker, parents of member Tom Scott.

In the near future we have plans for another private swimming party at Cynthiana, a return trip to Duffs for Sunday dinner, a bake sale, and several more performances before the new school year begins.

The Oaks are accompanied by Mrs. Gayle Vanlandingham, Mrs. Connie Howard, Mrs. Brenda Mattox, Mrs. Vickie Ring and Mrs. Patty Ecton.

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Hildreth School site of movie filming

Continued from page 1

begin in late August when company offices open at the Ramada Inn in Maysville. Shooting is scheduled to begin Aug. 29 and continue through mid-October. Principle sites will be Maysville and Manchester Islands in the Ohio, Augusta, Maysilick and Augusta, in addition to Hildreth School.

ACCORDING to Jim Toole of the state's film office, the production company had seen the Augusta area in the film "Centennial" and preferred it to that of Hannibal, Mo. and the Mississippi River, familiar haunts of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer.

Executive producer Bill Perry indicated that approximately 50-60 production members will be involved in the film, with a cast of 60 or more characters. Many of the extras will be hired in the Maysville area. Stars will be announced at a later date.

RAISE FUNDS, SELL TREES

Local organizations interested in fund-raising can now sell trees through a program offered by Pin Oak, a ranch 3-3 feet tall and cost the customer $3.50 each.

"Trees are an unusual fund-raising idea. Trees can be a profitable fund-raiser because many people will buy several," John Rosenow, the Foundation's executive director, said. "And the organization will be carrying out community-improvement projects at the same time.

"The Foundation will mail the trees directly to the customer's home address this fall. We will include complete planting instructions and a guarantee that the trees will grow next spring — or we replace them free. The local sponsoring organization never has to handle the trees," he said.

To allow for delivery of trees this fall to all customers, organizations should plan their sales promotions now. Organization representatives can obtain information about the program, including sample sales materials, by writing to: Fund-Raising Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

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