Opinion

Education no longer 'business as usual'

The state Board of Education's firm stand on a six-hour school day, which means schools will be barred from conducting athletic events or practices during school hours, is still another signal that the powers-that-be in Frankfort have no plans to return to the "business as usual" approach to educating our young people.

In this latest mandate, effective October 1, it appears that senior-release programs, state athletic tournaments, and excused absenses for such things as scheduled debates and band competitions will be a thing of the past. In short, all students will put in a six-hour school day. Extracurricular activities are considered just that. Classroom education comes first.

It remains to be seen if the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and the state board can work out a plan for rescheduling basketball tournaments and other events on non-school days.

The state's get-tough approach is aimed at every level of the educational system. Earlier enacted regulations will affect almost all personnel, teachers and administrators, who are responsible for the education of Kentucky's children.

At the community level, where citizens have a say through the election of school board members, a new requirement that board members seeking office have a high school education is a step forward. The "what was good enough for Pa is good enough for me" theory seemingly has been replaced as the state's best minds seek ways to elevate our lowly status on the educational ladder.

Officials can't be too happy that Kentucky ranks dead last among states in the educational attainment of its adult population. Forty-seven percent of our adults 25 years of age and older do not have high school diplomas. One-third of the people in that age group have not gone to school past the eighth grade. In fact, over 20 percent of our adults are "functionally illiterate," therefore unemployable in the marketplace.

The ground swell of concern is especially evident in Nicholas County, reflecting renewed interest in the school program shared by many Kentucky communities. Three seats on the board of education here are up for grabs. Two incumbents have filed for re-election and in all three districts voters will have a choice in determining what candidate they feel is best qualified to serve on our local governing board in the coming years.

While The Mercury does not endorse specific candidates it will attempt to publish information pertinent to the issues so that voters may be better informed to decide for themselves when they vote on November 6. All candidates are being invited to list their priorities which will be printed in forthcoming issues of this newspaper.

We understand that at least one organization — the Carlisle Community Woman's Club — is scheduling a public forum to which board candidates will be invited to address issues dealing with education. We encourage other groups interested in the future of our young people to line up similar forums in the few weeks remaining before the election. It is hard to imagine that there's a higher local program priority.

Residents are also reminded that October 9 is the final day to register to vote in the November general election. With so many top offices, including the Presidency, to be filled, it behooves each and every one of us to be in a position to take part in the electoral process. At present some 4,150 Nicholas countians are eligible to vote. It will be interesting to see how many exercise their privilege.

Shorter show sought

Here Abouts
...with Emily A. Wolf

Two things are for certain about the Lions Club horse show. One, it's one of the more popular events staged locally, and two, it lasts too long.

President Mark Hughes and other Lions connected with the one-night show are the first to admit that 1:30 in the morning is a wee bit late for the last class to end...especially when the first attraction kicked off at 6 p.m., eight and one-half hours earlier. Lee McDowell, in fact, only had time to shower and change clothes (after getting some 14 of her hunters "packed up" following the Sept. 8 show at the recreation park) before heading for another show Sunday afternoon.

It was a long haul between opening competition and the main event, the walking horse stakes. Many in the audience had to leave without knowing the outcome.

What to do? Mark said his committee was considering eliminating several classes but this would be especially hard due to the popularity of each one.

For what it's worth, someone has suggested the show be held on two nights, say a Friday when the football team is playing an away game, and Saturday, as now. Lead line classes could be split and held both nights, and other classes as scheduled so that out-of-town competitors would need only to make the trip here once. Or, if not on Friday night, possibly Sunday afternoon for local entries.

Lions would be doing double duty but the feeling is the public might be better served. At least everyone would get to bed at a decent hour. And at $1 per ticket it wouldn't be a financial drain on families wanting to attend both times.

Hunter classes proved very popular with the crowd and should certainly be included in future shows, most agree.

But the 6 p.m. starting time was a little too early for farmers housing tobacco. Even 7 p.m. was a push for many.

Whatever. It's a splendid family-type show that the public has come to appreciate. The Lions are to be commended for resurrecting what was once known as "Kentucky's Finest One Night Horse Show" (and believe me, it was just that).

Maybe next year it will have a new home in the West End Park if (construction) goes well. In a brightly lighted arena, we might add. For some reason the promised new lights at the East End Park never materialized, leaving a lot of the late action, and yours truly, in the dark, so to speak.

*****

The rain we needed, the wind and hail we didn't, referring to Friday's storm that took its toll, hereabouts.

Some tobacco still in the field was heavily damaged. Several crops near Blue Licks were peppered by hail. Our friends Betty and Sky Abner swept the ice deposits from their sidewalk that piled several inches high.

Tobacco on neighboring farms was riddled, as was Emmett Darrell's crop just off U.S. 68, where winds prematurely stripped leaves from the stalk and limbs from trees.

Emmett's tobacco is a stone's throw from ours, which, thankfully, escaped with minor bruises, according to Frank Terrell, producer. Wind velocity did rip off barn doors and tree limbs but skipped over the tobacco patch.

Some areas of the county recorded almost an inch of rainfall but for all intent and purpose it was too little too late. In some cases farmers were caught with their tobacco down, resulting in muddy burley and little relief from the extreme drought conditions.

*****

Speaking of tobacco, it's been many a moon since anyone around here was pictured on the front page of the Lexington Herald. Judge/Executive Reese Smoot enjoyed the privilege last Friday when he and Sheriff Charles King were photographed at their farms for inclusion in a story dealing with the woes of Kentucky's small burley producers.

It's hard to believe that Smoot's 100,000 pound allotment is considered a small base, but, compared to some of the big boys in Bourbon, Scott and Fayette it probably is. (I'm used to the 7-10,000 pound reading on our marketing card.)

*****

The football season is five games old and already it's Homecoming time. Friday night's game against Paris, whose Greyhounds are no doubt smarting from last Friday's loss to cross-town rival Bourbon County, is Homecoming '84 at NCHS. A large crowd is expected to see this year's queen presentation and other goodies associated with special halftime activities.

Coach Ben Pumphrey's boys in blue are still looking for their first win of the year and we have a feeling this just might be the night.

Ben, incidentally, is the state's 10th winningest coach, career-wise, after games of last week. Bourbon's Wilson Sears, with 143 wins, is just one behind. The Jackets have to get bumping during the second half of the season if the retiring coach is to tack on any more victories. One hundred and fifty would be a nice round number, huh guys?

*****

Autumn arrives Saturday and the cool, crisp, clear days over the weekend gave us a little preview of what's ahead.

State tourism promoters are already ballyhooing the coming mid-October period as the best time for viewing fall foliage colors: This may be true elsewhere but a tad late in these parts. Our leaves are drying up and falling fast. Predictions of a non-pretty fall may just be the case.

*****

Somebody Said — It takes two years for most of us to learn to talk and about 50 years to know when not to.

Letters
from our readers

Horse show support appreciated

To The Carlisle Mercury:

The Nicholas County Lions Club and each of its members thanks you for your generosity and contribution to our 2nd Annual Lions Club Horse Show held Saturday night, Sept. 8, at the Recreational Park. Without your help and cooperation this event would not have been possible.

The horse show was an outstanding success and provided an estimated crowd of 1,500 people in attendance with an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

Proceeds from all Nicholas County Lions Club projects are used for local charity assistance and not for administrative purposes. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Lion Mark Hughes
President

Agree or not

Tieing up the loose ends

by S.C. Van Cavan

Frankfort — Round and round she goes, and where she stops nobody knows.

That used to be the opening lines to the old Major Bowes Wheel of Fortune Amateur Hour on radio, but it could be appropriate for the musical chairs game in Kentucky politics wherein some elected minor officials spend much of their time running for another minor constitutional office because they cannot succeed themselves.

The case at point is that of State Treasurer Frances Jones Mills and seven of her employees now charged in Franklin Circuit Court with felony or misdemeanor counts.

Mrs. Mills and the employees are charged with felony theft by deception by working for Mrs. Mills' political campaign last year on state time. She was then secretary of state, running for treasurer.

The misdemeanor counts involve employees covered by the merit system working in the political campaign.

THESE ARE MATTERS for the courts to decide, but the outcome has an important bearing on the future of the state's merit system and the employees covered thereby. The Merit System that became effective back in 1961 was established ostensibly to provide state employees with some security in their jobs thereby making state employment attractive to qualified professionals, establishing continuity and efficiency in state government.

In the earlier years it was evaded openly through the simple mechanism of reorganizing government offices superficially by the expediency of changing the names of the jobs, firing the old employee because his job no longer existed and putting an administration favored person in the newly named position.

Most of that has been remedied since the formative years, and wholesale firing has been successfully challenged in court where actual proof of charges had to be established. Political activity, ironically, was the charge most often used. This affected government all over, but concentrated in the highway department at that time.

THE MILLS CASE doesn't involve this, but another area, the minor constitutional officers who, in most cases, have small numbers of state employees under their control. Some of these employees follow the elected official from one office to the other, thereby establishing a bond of loyalty.

These employees do, or should know the Merit System. They ought to be responsible for their actions. Yet, consider their position. They have the option of doing what they are asked or told to do during a campaign or being liable for strong measures of retribution from the elected official. In some cases this means doing as being told or putting on your hat and resigning.

This accounts for the method by which the official controls the employee through "loyalty."

NOW CONSIDER the official. He knows when state employees are campaigning for him while still being paid by the state. He also knows he is not supposed to use state facilities to benefit his campaign.

On the other hand, it is general knowledge that the lieutenant governor spends a greater part of his time preparing or running his campaign to be the next governor. Most of his staff is devoted to that effort. All officials seeking future offices are trying to curry public favor, but maybe not so blatantly because of their required duties.

There are still some loose ends to be tied up, and the Mills case can be one of them.

Down Memory Lane

Residents gather milkweed pods

Thursday, September 24, 1964

Thomas P. Carter of Danville has assumed his duties as customer service manager for Central Division of Kentucky Utilities Company with headquarters in Danville. He will be responsible for new business development programs in the 26 county Central Division. Carter is a native of Carlisle and the son of Mrs. Henry Carter and the late Mr. Carter.

Woody Wilson, Nicholas County Fire Department chief, reports that members of the volunteer group elected two of their members to office, Sept. 15. They were Frankie Hughes, captain, and Lester Green, lieutenant.

Voters in three Nicholas County school districts will have a choice when they go to the polls November 2. In those districts where there are no doubt smarting from last Friday's loss to cross-town rival Bourbon County, is Homecoming '84 at NCHS. A large crowd is expected to see this year's queen presentation and other goodies associated with special halftime activities.

Coach Ben Pumphrey's boys in blue are still looking for their first win of the year and we have a feeling this just might be the night.

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Jr., Cincinnati, a son, Russell Charles, Aug. 25 at St. Francis Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Barton, Ewing, a daughter, Rita Geraldine, Sept. 15 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Muse, Ewing, a daughter, Donna Ellen, Sept. 20 at Nicholas County Hospital.

DIED — Mrs. Emma Lynam Herrington, 90, Sept. 20 at home on Spring Street. — Sam Barbee, 73, Huntsville, AL, Sept. 11. — Daniel Owen Sheehan, Sept. 8. — Harry Gene Brierly, seven-month-old son of Wilson and Nellie Rue Brierly, Bourbon County, Sept. 8 at Bourbon County Hospital. — George Russell Bretz, 52, Ewing, Aug. 29 at Flemingsburg Hospital. — Jess Traylor, 52, Fincastle, OH, Sept. 15 at Hillsboro, OH. — Sister B. Ritchie, 68, Sept. 17 at Veterans Hospital, Chicago, IL. — Henry Clay Guthrie, 78, Sept. 9 at home in Mt. Sterling.

Thursday, September 28, 1944

Grimes Caywood, who has been associated with the Kentucky Standard at Bardstown for the past several months, has taken a position with the Lexington Leader as reporter. He was formerly associated with The Mercury during the newspaper career of the late Warren Fisher.

The Nicholas County Junior Red Cross, under the supervision of Miss Mary Lois Campbell, has recently sent 200 crossword puzzles to Cole General Hospital, Parma Heights; four writing portfolios to U.S. Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA; four lap robes and two pairs of bedroom slippers to Alexandria, VA, to the area office.

Nicholas County has joined the host of Kentucky counties in gathering milkweed pods for the armed forces. They are needed to replace kapok, used to make safety belts for the Navy, Marines and Army Air Force.

DIED — Edward James Secrest, 85, Sudrey at home on Locust Street. — Elbert Fulton Tune, 54, Saturday at Mount Memorial Hospital, Paris. — Arthur M. Poole, Monday at Greensboro, MD. — John A. Holar, 69, Monday at home near Morning Glory. — Ben See, Wednesday at home in Lexington.

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Op-Ed page

Another first in outer space...if

naughty astronaut is paddled by teacher

Dear NASA:

I am in the seventh grade at Altonville Junior High, Altonville, Pa., and I think you should take my teacher on the space trip.

His name is Mr. Bentwhistle and he knows everything.

He knows a lot about science. He says that if you drop a 10-pound ball and a one-pound ball at the same time they will both land at the same time because Galileo dropped them off the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Do you believe this?

Mr. Bentwistle knows all about English, too. He is reading "Ivanhoe" to us, which is very interesting. I can do my math homework while he reads.

He corrects our grammar, which is very useful. He makes you stand up in front of the class and say it again, what you said, then he corrects you. That way you never forget it, he says.

Please take Mr. Bentwhistle. Please.

Sincerely,
Linda Bunting

President Reagan announced that the first civilian in space would be a teacher. Several things can be said for that choice.

The real reason for choosing a teacher was Reagan's desire to inspire American youth, to give them a chance to dream big dreams. It can't miss. I'm sure that many kids already are dreaming about sending their teachers into outer space.

Had this opportunity come up many years ago my choice would have been Miss Rose, an iron-fisted disciplinarian who gave up sure stardom in the roller derby or the graveyard guard shift at Alcatraz for the service of teaching, which also included the ability to whip any boy in school and to eat all the apples and candy you could carry to her in a day without a change for the better in her attitude.

This brings us to the other reason for choosing a teacher: food. Anyone who has ever eaten a school lunch knows that school food has the same flair as astronaut food. NASA recognizes this. According to NASA, the teacher will be asked to perform normal housekeeping, including operating the hygiene and food systems and hatches on the mission.

But first comes the long process of picking the right person. Because I am a patriot supreme and something of an expert on testing, I am developing a questionnaire that will help the Reagan people come up with the proper teacher. Also, I have always wanted to inflict a test upon a teacher.

Here is what I have come up with so far:

You are operating the space craft's hygiene system and one of the astronauts wants to go to the bathroom. What is the proper response? (a) Why didn't you take care of your needs at recess? (b) Is this absolutely necessary? (c) You've already been there once this morning. Go to your seat. (d) Make sure you wash your hands.

An astronaut is having trouble performing one of his assigned tasks, for example, cleaning out the star dust in a valve. What would you say to him or her? (a) Put on your thinking cap. (b) You're not applying yourself. (c) None of the other astronauts is having this kind of trouble. (d) Don't be a slowpoke.

What do you say to an astronaut who leaves his freeze-dried beef half-eaten? (a) There are thousands of kids in Bangladesh who go to bed hungry. (b) You will never grow up to be big and strong if you don't eat it all. (c) Seems like our eyes are bigger than our tummy. (d) If you don't eat that, there will be no dessert for you.

What do you say after the astronauts start filling out their data sheets? (a) Eyes on your own paper. (b) No passing notes. (c) Don't peek at your neighbor's work. (d) Your time is almost up.

And what do you say to a teacher who is aboard a spacecraft and 3:30 p.m. arrives? (a) You could call this extracurricular activities. (b) Yes, I know you worked at the last football game. (c) I know it's not in your contract. (d) We can expect to hear from your professional negotiator.

— RM —

Roger Valdiserri is the sports information director for Notre Dame, and he once had the same job for the pro Kansas City Chiefs.

Valdiserri is not a great flyer. During a particularly bumpy airplane ride, Valdiserri was seated next to giant defensive end Buck Buchanan, who could sleep through an air raid. Valdiserri's stomach became more and more queasy. Finally, he could hold himself no longer and deposited his lunch all over his seatmate who, amazingly, continued to dream on.

Now, Buchanan weighed about as much as a front-end loader and could break an elephant in two at the withers with one blow. Valdiserri is one of the truly gentle men in sports — and a quick thinker. He very softly rushed to the restroom and back with a handful of paper towels and began to wipe off the still sleeping Buchanan. He was almost finished when Buchanan woke up. "What the..." Buchanan stammered. Continuing to mop up, without missing a dab, Valdiserri innocently asked:

"Feel better now, Buck?"

— RM —

It shows the confidence that comes with success. When Ara Parseghian arrived at Notre Dame, he follow Rockne and Leahy and other legends, his first game on the sidelines in South Bend happened to come on a prematurely wintry day.

It began snowing heavily in the third quarter, and the students began chanting from behind the Notre Dame bench, "Ara, stop the snow! Ara, stop the snow!" Puzzled, Parseghian turned to an assistant coach. "Stop the snow?" he asked. "Could I?"

It is now 10 years later. Parseghian's last game at South Bend. Same sidelines, same quarter, same chant from the students. "Ara, stop the snow! Ara, stop the snow!" Parseghian turns to the same assistant and says, "Should I?"

— RM —

Sam Snead tells this story. He was recalling Walter Hagen, the first great professional golfer. Hagen was always confident. He would introduce himself to his foursome with, "Okay, who's going to finish second?"

Hagen was also known to take a drink. He had already won three or four PGA championships and, on being back in the days of match play, was scheduled to play Leo Diegel in the final match for another PGA title on Sunday. On Saturday night, long after midnight, some friends found Hagen training for the next day's confrontation in a bar. Concerned, they tried to get him to leave.

"Walter," one of them said, "don't you realize that Leo has been in bed since nine o'clock?"

"Sure," said Hagen, ordering another double, "but he ain't sleepin'."

— RM —

Sportswriting used to be a simple occupation. You went to a game and wrote what you saw. The world changed faster than some of us in the business who have done our turn at writing sports.

A veteran horse racing writer was at the track to cover the feature event one day. The favorite broke on top and extended his lead until he got to the final turn. Suddenly, the horse veered to the right, threw his jockey, jumped over the rail, sped through the grandstand, crippling two old ladies, knocked over a concession stand and started a fire that was still raging when the writer got back to the office.

He turned in his account of the day to his editor. "What is this?" screamed the editor, throwing the story back to him. "There's no mention of this crazy horse, nothing about the old ladies. Where's the stuff about the fire?" The racing writer picked up his story, placed it back on the editor's desk and turned to leave.

"Once the horse leaves the track," he sniffed, "he is no concern of mine."

Onward, upward.

Russ Metz

Accident victim remains in coma

Ramey Torbey, 37, a resident of the Old Paris Road near Millersburg, remains in a coma following brain surgery for injuries sustained in a two-car accident Saturday afternoon on Walnut Grove Road.

Torbey, his wife Juliette and 10-year-old son Ramsey, were returning to their home from Cynthiana about 2 p.m. when a car with Florida license plates veered left of center and struck the Torbey vehicle. Witnesses said that the Florida car was traveling at a high rate of speed when it reportedly smashed into the Torbeys.

The accident victim, who also suffered a broken arm, was taken to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where he underwent a nine-hour operation. His wife and son were treated at Bourbon County Hospital and released. The accident is being investigated by Bourbon County officers.

Torbey has a number of relatives in Carlisle and Nicholas County.

Service academy representatives in Lexington

Congressman Larry Hopkins will host a three-hour program in Lexington dealing with service academies.

Interested high school students and their parents are invited to Henry Clay High School Auditorium Saturday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. to meet representatives from the Army, Navy and Air Force academies. A film depicting academy life will be shown.

Members of Hopkins' staff will be on hand to explain the application and nomination process.

Commodity distribution September 27

The Community Action Agency in cooperation with the Cabinet for Human Resources will be distributing USDA commodities on Sept. 27 from 1-5 p.m.

According to Margaret Hunter, R.P.C., anyone wishing someone else to pick up their commodities must bring a permission slip containing the following information: name of person picking up your commodities, your social security number, number in household, income for previous month and your signature.

School menus

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sept. 24-28

Breakfast — Monday, juice, long john, milk. Tuesday, juice, danish stick, milk. Wednesday, juice, mini-donuts, milk. Thursday, applesauce, sausage and biscuit, milk. Friday, juice, cinnamon toast, milk.

Lunch — Monday, hot ham and cheese sandwich, au gratin potatoes, green beans, cookies, milk. Tuesday, Swiss steak and gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, hot rolls, jello salad, milk. Wednesday, beef nuggets, French fries, tomato, pudding pop, milk. Thursday, beef ravioli, slaw, carrot and celery, bread, ice cream, milk. Friday, fish on bun, macaroni and cheese, tomato, fruit salad, milk.

HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, sausageburger on bun, white beans, sliced tomatoes, applesauce, milk. Tuesday, chili with crackers, relish tray, cheese slice, apple or orange, milk. Wednesday, burritos, buttered corn, tossed salad, fruit, milk. Thursday, chicken pot/pie, potato chips, lettuce wedge with dressing, fruit, ice cream, milk. Friday, chicken pattie on bun, potato salad, peas, fruit, milk.

Menus subject to change.

Hospital notes

Sept. 7-13, 1984

ADMISSIONS: Jesse C. Mynear, Malinda Hunt and baby boy, Merryll Vice, Robert Hatfield, Harold Mitchell, Roger Riggs, Christine Booth, Clarence Hopkins, Carol Bowles and baby boy, Bonnie Hawkins and baby girl, Chester Goldy Sr., Charles Hobbs, Ginger Medley, Wilma Herrington, Lillian Fryman, Marvin Jones, Jacky Ramey, Ruby McKee, Carlisle; Beana-lee Robinson, Eugene Pile, Melba Henson, Leta Dotson, Jackie Bailey, Raymond Flack, Mt. Olivet; Roscoe Talbott, Millersburg; Edgar Wilson, Sharpsburg; Hazel Dye, Ewing.

DISCHARGES: Larry Hamilton, Ottie Smoot, Ralph Lyons, Edith Bryant, Magaline Curran, Ethel Hunt, Frances Hammonds, Jesse C. Mynear, George Jolly, Roger Riggs, Malinda Hunt and baby boy, Charles Hobbs, Carol Bowles and baby boy, Jacky Ramey, Bonnie Hawkins and baby girl, Christine Booth, Chester Goldy Sr., Ellen Buchanan, Carlisle; Lillian Johnson, Edgar Wilson, Sharpsburg; William Darnall, Ewing; Jackie Bailey, Bensalee Robinson, Eugene Pile, Mt. Olivet; Jackie Anderson, Owingsville.

MAN HOSPITALIZED IN SATURDAY SHOOTING

A local resident, Gerald Jolly, was taken to the Nicholas County Hospital Saturday suffering from gunshot wounds in what was termed an accidental shooting following a family argument.

State Police are investigating.

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