Opinion

Goodbye, seniors..

...tomorrow is the beginning of the rest of your adult life. It is the last day you will sit in a classroom, surrounded by your peers, in an academic atmosphere that is a culmination of 12 years of preparing yourself for the future. In other words, life after elementary and high school, where you were coddled by caring parents and protective teachers and educators, in most cases.

After tomorrow you are on your own. What becomes of your life depends, in some degree, on how well you have applied yourself here, adjusting to the adult world at each rung on the academic ladder.

You are graduating at a time that bodes well for many. Our country is at peace and job prospects for immediate future are bright for those with skills to pursue their goals. Less encouraging, of course, is the farm economy, which annually employs many local graduates. Only time will tell.

One member of the 1985 graduating class stands particularly tall. Joe Johnson, a Merit Scholar semi-finalist as a junior, was named a Merit finalist this year. He is the only finalist in the school's history.

Ben Pumphrey chose to "gradualle" from his chosen profession of coaching this year. It is a commencement of sort for this veteran teacher/mentor who has devoted 35 years to developing the athletic prowess of his many junior and senior high students. His accomplishments were noted at a sports banquet last week. Whatever his future plans, we wish him the very best, and a big thank you from an appreciative public, this editor included.

To, each and every graduate hearty congratulations. We hope you achieve your individual dreams and that Carlisle and Nicholas County will provide a future for your talents in the years to come. That's the challenge facing our generation.

China: 'An experience'

Our world travelers, Billy and Jayne Parker and Charles and Helen Hopkins returned from a tour of China with mixed reactions.

"To travel hopefully," wrote Robert Louis Stevenson, "is better than to arrive." In short, expectation is better than participation. That might apply to the Parkers' appraisal of their three-week swing through the People's Republic and other stops in Asia.

"It is not how far you go but how deeply you travel that mines the gold of experience. Theresa wrote a big book about tiny Walden Pund." That art-of-traveling tip, contained in the front of the tour brochure, letter fits the Hopkins' reflections on the most recent part of the world the local couples have visited.

Both were in accord on one thing: It's no place to go if you're looking for a relaxing time. As Helen pointed out, this tour was more of an educational experience than a vacation. In that sense, they learned quite a lot in a short span of time.

Following a rough 24-hour flight from Chicago via Anchorage, Alaska in which the sun never set and their eyes seldom closed, Tokyo was a welcome sight...and the beginning of 17 days of visiting shrines, temples, tombs, the Great Wall, the Terra Cotta Warriors, silk, pearl, jade and porcelain factories, parades, gardens, communes, markets, and greasy spoon restaurants.

Better make that greasy chop stick restaurants, in some Mainland China stops. Billy never really "got with" Chinese food or the customary way to eat it. Even Charles admitted in a diary eiffy that by the eighth day he was tiring of a steady diet of rice and whatever, too thin soup and tasteless Green Dragon tea.

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From beautiful, almost spotless Tokyo, where cab drivers wear white gloves, their first glimpse of China and its attending filth and poverty came in Shanghai, best remembered for its masses of people and bicycles. "It would probably have been a mess if people had cars for transportation," Billy recalled.

From Shanghai it was on to Suzhou ("dirty") and Hangzhou ("pretty") by train. At all times two members from the China International Travel Service (CITS) accompanied the four group, which had been warned to avoid answering any political type questions which they might be asked by inquiring Chinese.

Highlight of the tour was a visit to the Great Wall, located two miles from their hotel in Beijing, formerly Peking, the nation's capital. They walked the Great Wall, said to be the only man-made object visible from a satellite in orbit. Once 31,250 miles long, it is only 3,750 miles at this time. It was built from 221 to 206 BC by some 30,000 laborers who, as they died, were buried inside the massive structure built along its borders as a protection from its enemies.

Beijing is also the site of Ming Tombs and the Mao Monument to the former emperor, who lies in state, enclosed in a crystal coffin. People were lined up for at least a mile to pay respects to their beloved leader who died in 1976. The 36-member tour group was allowed to enter without having the long wait of others. Location is Red Square, a 190-acre area said-to be the largest in the world.

Forbidden City is nearby and Charles described it as "something else," noting it would take a month to see everything.

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The Terra Cotta Warriors, second only to the Great Wall as a tourist must-see were especially fascinating to our travelers. Buried alive over 2,000 years ago, they were said to be guarding the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (his spelling is anybody's so don't quote me). They were uncovered in 1974 during an excavation near Xian in one of three adjoining closely guarded tombs, only one of which is open to tourists.

In fact, even though the Peoples Republic of China began welcoming tourists from the western world some five or six years ago, the country is not altogether ready for what it sees as them in many areas, Billy feels.

Never-the-less, the Terra Cotta Warriors experience was a definite highlight. To quote the Hopkins, "Nothing like it in this world."

***

Hong Kong, the final leg of the tour, offered a welcome relief from a steady diet of Chinese food, and often primitive surroundings. So what did the Parkers order once settled in this cosmopolitan city? A hamburger, no less!

Food in Hong Kong tasted especially good. Their farewell dinner at the Excelsior Hotel, for example, included Lobster Mousse with Artichoke Hearts, Pigeon Consume with Quail Eggs, Tenderloin of Beef Wellington, Perigueux Sauce, Chateau Potatoes, fresh garden vegetable, fruit, coffee or tea and dessert.

Hong Kong is also famous for its Boat People, who live on the China Sea. Live and die there, that is. Sea gulls are non-existent, thank goodness, and drinking water is delivered once a week in this primitive harbor type home for many.

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Dropkipping around — The rate of exchange is very favorable, about 7½ Hong Kong dollars (yuans) for an American dollar. A cheese sandwich might be listed as $20 on the menu, but really not all that expensive when converted to our currency. A club sandwich sold for $35, a bourbon and water for $27.50. In some places ice was a rarity, with a sort of orange drink or Chinese tea most usually available.

The tour included a stop at a commune where workers existed on $60 pay a month. In the area of Nanjing, farmers have land on which they can raise what they want to sell at market. For this they can expect from $120-$140 a month and are considered among the richest people!

Australia and New Zealand were visited by the couples on a previous tour, also sponsored by Southland Travel Service in Birmingham. As Jayne said upon return, "We saw a million sheep in Australia and a billion people in China!"

***

My souvenir from the trip was a newspaper, China Daily, in English, of course. Its front page of May 18 contained a number of interesting stories, one dealing with sanctions issued to subdue a recent wave of "unhealthy tendencies" among Party members in Beijing. These "unhealthy tendencies" included such things as "moonlighting" and setting up companies or enterprises in violation of Party rules. Some 3626 Party members and officials were penalized and 462 were forced to quit their part time jobs. Hard to imagine.

Another article dealt with China opening up its import markets to overseas publications, (newspapers and periodicals), books, recorded music and videotapes. Some will even be shipped by air. Presently most arrive by sea and take nearly two months to reach the subscriber. (We scream if our newspapers are a day late!)

Progress is reported in banking and technology. The Bank of China will issue seven-year public bonds in Federal Germany at month's end, marking the first time a Chinese bank has issued bonds in Europe.

The MBB Corporation of the Federal Republic of Germany announced its plan to help expand cooperation with China in the space and aviation industries. It also plans to provide broadcasting satellites and airbuses and to help upgrade China's civilian aircraft, communications and energy projects.

***

China is a country of 900 million people situated in 3,691,565 square miles. Its religion is Buddhism. Only about 12 percent of its total land area is under cultivation, with the principal crops being rice, wheat, potatoes, soybeans and cotton. About 85 percent of the labor force is engaged in agriculture. (The Parkers said they saw little or no lettuce or tomatoes served in restaurants.)

Our travelers will have yet another chance to visit the country when KET

*See Here Abouts, page 3

Here Abouts

...with Emily A. Wolf

Stroll along The Great Wall

Jayne and Billy Parker pose atop The Great Wall of China near Beijing during recent tour with Helen and Charles Hopkins. — Photo submitted

Uniquely grateful

Breaking the traditional solemnity of commencement, many of Morehead State University's 650 graduates decorated their mortar boards with special messages to family and friends in Jayne Stadium, the first outdoor commencement in MSU history. — Photo submitted

Agree or not

Taxes politically self-serving

by S.C. Van Curon

Frankfort — Taxes are the lifeblood of government and politics is the motivating force used to move the taxpaying pawns about for the politician's benefit.

At least that is what happens much of the time in Kentucky although benefits for the citizens in general almost always are used as the reason.

Under such circumstances it isn't hard to understand why Gov. Martha Layne Collins has a hard time convincing the legislators and the public that more money is needed for education and other services in Kentucky.

FOR MORE than 50 years now, the politicians have used taxes as the vehicle to win office or defeat their enemies. Happy Chandler won the governorship the first time in 1935 by opposing Gov. Ruby Laffoon's sales tax in those depression years. Happy won and nullified his promise of doing away with the sales tax.

From then until the 1960s the politicians ran on the plan of no new taxes and kept Kentucky a backward state for years. They managed until after World War II when inflation got its foothold, and then they had to have more places where they could increase the present taxes because the state was already using all forms...property, income and excises.

Earle Clements promised to improve Kentucky's rural road system as was elected and then instituted the two-cent farm-to-market gasoline tax.

EDUCATION won some battles in the 40s and 50s, but the wins were small. Growth in the economy was the chief gain, but taxes were upped a bit here and there until the Minimum Foundation Program was voted under Gov. Lawrence Wetherby.

In 1956 Gov. Chandler gave teachers the first big financing for the MFP, but more would be needed for the future. He looked at passing a sales tax because he won by promise to kill it in 1935 and kept that promise.

World War II veterans wanted a bonus and it became a popular demand. Happy agreed to put the question on the ballot in the form of a bond issue to pay the bonus, but it was to be financed by a sales tax. The ballot question didn't say how much sales tax.

It passed and Gov. Bert Combs had a mandate from the people for the tax. He set it at three cents.

TEACHERS wanted more money under Breathitt. He added $24 million to his strained budget and it didn't materialize. In the meantime he had to call a special session to prevent schools from assessing $1.50 per $100 valuation after the Court of Appeals ruling of 100 percent fair cash value on real property. In the summer of 1965 he passed the rollback law that said tax rates couldn't be set higher than the amount needed to bring in the same amount of money but allowed growth.

Gov. Louie B. Nunn took office with a deficit facing him. He upped the sales tax to five cents from the original three.

U.S. Senator Wendell Ford, then a state senator, got a bill passed exempting prescription medicine from the tax. He used this to run for governor. As governor, he took it (the tax) off take-home groceries to run for the U.S. Senate.

Gov. Julian Carroll switched the first 35 cents of local school tax collections to the state, and said "Look what I did for schools." Thelma Stovall called a special session and passed House Bill 44 limiting excise taxes on utilities and stopped growth on other taxes.

Now, we're in a bind, much of it caused by self-serving politicians.

Down Memory Lane

Blue mold hits tobacco crop

Thursday, June 10, 1965

The Carlisle Mercury, Warren Fisher, publisher, received a Certificate of Merit for Excellence in the Annual Newspaper Production Contest 1965 for second place for the Best-All-Around Newspaper, Class I at the Kentucky Press Association meeting at Kentucky Dam State Park, Gilberstville on June 4.

Kent Mann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Mann and a junior at Nicholas County High School, is attending Boys State at Eastern State College in Richmond June 6-12.

Miss Winby Ann Shearer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shearer, participated in the Commonwealth's statewide queen contest at the Frankfort homecoming celebration last Friday and Saturday. Miss Nancy Burres, a roommate of Miss Shearer from Greensburg, was named homecoming queen.

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Here Abouts

Continued from page 2

airs a special on New China, Wednesday, June 12 at 8 p.m.

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Sick, sick! — A letter received in the mail by a number of local voters prior to last week's election was the product of a sick mind, obviously. Aimed at discrediting Judge/Executive Reene Smoot, the unsigned letter did little to dissuade Smoot's backers, judging by his margin of victory, but did inflict hurt on members of his family and the families of other innocent candidates accused of authoring the trash.

As Smoot put it, "They can say what they want about me, but when it comes to my family that's another matter."

He's considering taking legal action and I hope he does, if for no other reason than vindicating those who have been unjustly implicated.

The writer may have gone too far, using the U.S. mail to distribute the poisonous slander. We'll see.

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Russ Metz

Op-Ed page

Gleets, gravel, gouty complaints

...and the Graham quacker that took people to bed

"I feel like something the cats dragged in," said an old buddy, who looked like he'd been break dancing in a brickyard. "I think I got something that hasn't been invented yet."

"Been to a doctor?" I asked.

"Yeah," he groaned. "Said I had tired blood and a few other things I couldn't pronounce. Hell, how would he know? He ain't never felt as bad as I do."

"You looking for sympathy?"

"From you I wouldn't get any," he said. "But you claim to be an all-fired expert on old-time remedies and cures and if there ever was a fellow who needed an old-time dose of good medicine, it's me, believe me."

I wrote about some genuine sure-cure remedies some time back and could recommend a big dose of Old Sachem Bitters and Wigwam Tonic to you, the same stuff the braves up at Wounded Knee swig before going into battle against the federal government," I told him. "Have you tried the Imperial Pill. It's absolutely infallible for all bilious, gouty and rheumatic complaints?"

He hardly. It was obvious, or he wouldn't have looked like he'd just heard the last rites. I always have a medicine cabinet stocked with only the most reliable remedies, prescribed by history's outstanding quacks and charlatans. The government and modern medicine have never sanctioned these time-tested medicines because they are sure cures, which upsets the whole purpose of Medicare.

You take Anti-Scorbutin Essence, the purifier of the blood and humours. Anytime anything appears humorous to me, I take a belt of this and nothing comes out funny anymore.

I also have in my repertoire of remedies:

Vegetable Balsam — for cooling and calming every known human malady.

Pearl Essence — for healing all ulcers, cankers, cancers and foulness of the mouth. Good for washing cuswords out of little boys' mouths.

Ethereal Amber — cures old rheumatism, spasms, cramps, palsies, old gouty callous swellings.

Nervous Ethereal Balsam — the balmy bracer of weak nerves and relaxed fibers. Or use as after-shave lotion.

Pectoral Balsam — for coughs, colds, asthmas and consumptions.

Solvent and Expeller — for the Gravel and Stone. I'm not quite sure whether you take this or put it on your driveway.

British Drops — a safe, speedy, radical and infallible specific antidote against venereal disease in all its stages and degrees. How in the world did this get in my medicine cabinet?

Bracing Balsam — for the effectual cure of gleets, feminal weakness, debility and impotency in men. It works. We haven't had the gleets in years in our family.

Cephalic Powder — a safe, speedy and general certain cure for fits. Good for husbands, who throw first-of-the-month fits.

Aethereal Ambrosial Quitessence of Gold, Honey and Rosa Salis — for

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He originated charging for office calls, enough right there to elevate him into medical piety. Dr. Graham put in a fancy office in England and invited the elite to come and be cured. After patients paid the prescribed office call fee, he would lecture them on how healthy they could expect to be if they took his medicine, and wound up his sessions with a couple of scantily-clad girls, called Goddesses of Health, prancing past his customers to show what his potions had done for them. This always caused the sales of his Nervous Aetherial Balsam to skyrocket.

He was first to tell women to take off their "flea traps" and clean up. Women wore a skirt full of boners under the voluminous dress to trap fleas that took up residence there. "Wash the neck, face, hands, arms, feet, legs and private parts with pure cold rain or river water," he preached. "Wear light-weight clothing, exercise regularly, eat a simple diet," he said, also advocating the custom of husband and wife sleeping apart on occasion. With a wife full of fleas, this was a break for the husband.

It was in his late practice that he devised the Grand Celestial or Magnetic-Electice Bed, 12 feet long and 9 feet wide, supported by 40 pillars of brilliant glass in rich colors. The super celestial bed, some of the ingredients of which contained balmy and ethereal spices, odours and essences, coupled with music and magnetic influences, gave the sleeper a trip, like out of sight, man.

On the utmost summit of the dome were two exquisite figures of Cupid and Psyche, with a figure of Hymen behind his flaming torch with electrical fire in one hand and with the other supporting a celestial crown, sparkling over a pair of living turtle doves on a little bed of roses. He couldn't wait for electricity to be invented.

The other group of figures which decorated the top of the dome had musical instruments in their hands, giving off sounds of flutes, guitars, violins, clarinets, trumpets, horns, oboes and kettledrums, which also was something because he couldn't wait for Lawrence Welk to be invented.

At the head of the bed appear sparkling with more electrical fire a great first commandment: Be Fruitful, Multiply and Replenish the Earth. It was England's first X-rate bed.

No feathers were used. Only sweet new wheat or oat straw mingled with balm, rose leaves, lavender flowers and oriental spices. The sheets were of richest and softest silks, in pastel colors, and sweetly perfumed with the tudor rose, or rich gums and balsams.

But the whole secret of Graham's Celestial Bed was its artificial lodestones. These compound magnets were continually pouring forth in an everflowing circle. This is important because sleeping with your feet toward the north pole is generally recommended, but it does have a tendency to, darken your toenails.

The bed was built with a double frame, which moved on an axis or pivot, and could be converted into an inclined plane." It was the compound bed, but Graham never got credit for it. Even eating Graham crackers in bed was never widely accepted.

On special order from the real swells, the mattresses were filled with the strongest, most springy hair from the tails of English stallions, which produced the greatest degree of elasticity and the funniest looking horses in Europe.

For a night on the Celestial Bed, Graham charged about $250, which appears in line with the current prices at the better Miami hotels. If I didn't have any other reason for not getting to sleep, this would do right well.

The government's ripoff on deceptive labeling and advertising of patent medicines and other fancy modern pills is overdue. It is about time a customer can walk into a drug store and buy a 40 cent kind of medicine and expect to be cured because the label says so. Medicines today don't cure because they are all for the disease, like for headaches, for bellyaches, for acne and for dandruff, and not for you. I'd sort of like to know whose side a medicine is on before I buy it.

You always knew this in the balms and elixirs put out by reputable quacks. You got a lot of stuff at least you knew you had died cured.

Onward, upward.

Kindergarten registration

Continued from page 1

vice; at noon an alternate bus service will return the children to their respective home and transport students who will be attending the afternoon session to the school.

Children attending the afternoon session will be transported from home to the school and returned home by the regular bus service in the afternoon. This provision would not require any pargest to transport their child to kindergarten. Of the 180 school districts in Kentucky 135 operate under this plan.

Parents who have pre-registered their child for kindergarten will receive a letter notifying them of the session of kindergarten their child will be attending. An orientation will be conducted on August 26 at 9 a.m. in the Nicholas County Elementary gymnasium for parents of kindergarten children.

City

Continued from page 1

waste water to mix with the pool effluent, which now feeds at about 1,000/1 at the runoff pipe. Mademann was receptive to the idea but told Lester that he feels the new mix would only dilute the discharge by one half, still above the new standard.

Other ideas were discussed but Lester said Mademann is of the opinion that the Division of Water must allow the effluent to be measured in the stream instead of the point of discharge in order for BGK to operate within state requirements.

While textile operation officials have been verbally told it has up to three years to meet these standards, Lester said he feels it is important that the city makes every effort to show the company it is interested in helping in any way it can.

Lester, an employee of the plant for 19 years before opening a business in Carlisle, said he was told BGK was grateful for his recommendations and would take them under advisement.

Electrical fire destroys car

A passenger car owned by Judy George, Cane Run, was completely destroyed by fire June 1 about 1:30 p.m.

The car, a 1978 Monte Carlo, apparently caught fire from an electrical short under the dash, according to Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes.

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For More Information Contact: Eugene Sibert at 289-2948 or Ricky Broderick at 289-7052

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