Letters from our readers

Athletics need support, not criticism, writers feel

To The Carlisle Mercury:

On a recent trip home to visit my family, I ran across an issue of The Carlisle Mercury (March 14) concerning the quality of the school system's athletic program. I was delighted to see that a few concerned citizens are taking an interest in the well being of the student-athletes in the county. However, I think they are missing the point of athletics in the school system. The role of athletics should be a character building experience to form the student into a well rounded individual. I'm not saying athletics should be secondary, but it should be a supplement in the development of the total educational experience.

The athletic program and coaches at Nicholas County have proven their competence and abilities over the years as exemplified by their past performances. Blaming the coaches is an easy way out. When things go bad someone always wants to find a scapegoat. In recent years, the football and basketball programs have been successful with winning seasons and defeating opponents that were bigger, stronger and faster than the kids from Nicholas County. It was these same coaches that instilled pride in the community and also within the kids.

Success in athletics is a community effort and the success or failure is not dependent on any one individual. The support and pride in the community for the athletic program could be a big boost for everyone involved. If the kids have support in everything they do, it will reflect in their performance on and off the field. Let's spend more time and energy on supporting the program and coaches rather than criticizing them.

Thank you,
Mark Ruddell
2504 Larkin Rd. #251
Lexington, Ky. 40503

To The Carlisle Mercury:

We participated or were associated with the high school basketball team at Nicholas County High School during the last seven years (the time of Coach Mike Kenney's head coaching career).

We feel very strongly about athletics at NCHS and have strong convictions about the basketball teams. Our opinions, however, are very contradictory to those expressed at the March 11 school board meeting as they were reported in the Mercury.

Coach Kenney disciplined us and "chewed us out" when we deserved it. To us, there is a difference between a "chewing out" and uncontrolled temper. He insisted on our playing hard and helping one another by playing together. The discipline helped develop a winning attitude and a sense of competitiveness on our team. His insistence on our playing hard and doing what he asked motivated us and gained our respect for him.

The first thing in winning (or competing) is wanting to win. Part of this comes from coaching, part from players, and part from the home.

We feel, also, that our basketball teams and all of our athletic programs have helped the reputation of our school in general. Our basketball teams have gained the respect of many schools in central Kentucky in the past seven years that they never before had. We feel that Coach Kenney is largely responsible for this, by instilling in players the attitude of competing against good opposition without being afraid. Nicholas County High School basketball has been nothing but an asset to our school and community since Coach Kenney has coached here.

We resent statements such as "We have the material; we want someone who will produce something with it." And "He (Kenney) didn't motivate us." This is a copout. We feel like we have some material (not as much as many of our opponents), and we had someone who did do something with it. We are proud of that. Look at the major colleges who have not won consistently in the 1964-65 season because they have been "down" in material (Kentucky and Louisville to name two). What do they do? They play the best they can with what they have and try to rebuild.

Our basketball teams have had a recent reputation of playing superior teams because of hustle, determination and discipline. This is attributed to the fact that we were "motivated" to play above our ability and were respectful of our coach's talents and abilities.

We would like to list some of the accomplishments of our teams and ask what kind of shape we have taken five years to get into.

- Won three district games in seven years; had not won one in at least 10. Went to the regional tourney.
- Defeated Mason County in 1984 regional tournament. It was termed the "upset" of the decade.
- Defeated an undefeated Mason County team in 1985. Mason County went to the finals of the state tourney.
- Lost to Bourbon County in 1985-86 season by one point. Bourbon County went on to be state runners-up.
- Won 20 games in 1979-80 season and 15 the following year.
- Lost to Henry Clay 56-47 in Harrison County tournament in 1980. Henry Clay was ranked in the top 10.
- Lost to Frankfort in three overtimes at Frankfort. They too were ranked in the top 10.
- Defeated, ponyfeed tourney including Bourbon County (four times), Harrison County (four times), Fleming County, Maysville, Pendleton County, Montgomery County, Boyle County, Frankfort, Paris (four times), Mason County (two times), Bracken County, Clark County, Grant County, Madison and Bath County.
- Some of these teams had been NCHS opponents several times before and our school had never beaten them.
- Nicholas County has had 20, 13, 13, 12 win seasons second top flight competition.

We do not pretend to be experts or professionals any more than the critics we read about in the (March 14) Mercury, but we have some basketball experiences and are unbiased enough to know that the coach can do no more than coach the material he has.

Coach Kenney has won the "big" games time and again, but he never gloats. Instead, he praises his players. He has also lost games because the opponents had superior talent, but he never makes excuses. He still praises his players and encourages them to work to improve.

As for the statement suggesting that outsiders (parents) help coach, we ask why? The statement was made that Kenney should let Greg Letcher coach the freshmen and B teams. That is what he gets paid for doing. Then we ask why have the outsiders (parents) coach? Isn't that what Coach Kenney gets paid for doing, too? How could a coach gain players' respect with parents assisting in the coaching and with parents criticizing the coach?

Let's face reality. Why should a parent want to help coach? One can only imagine one reason would be so their child would get more playing time. Then, wouldn't you have the problem of parents becoming disenchanted and jealous if someone else's son played more? Isn't this the problem now?

We feel like we got to play or did not get to play because the coach alone evaluated our skills and chose fairly who would most benefit the team. We would not want anyone else to do that.

Lastly, we want it to be known that we are very proud of Bluejacket basketball and are proud that we were a part of it. We would hate to see our coach leave because of parents who want to coach or because of someone who wants their son to play but not to be disciplined. Mr. Day had some excellent comment about everyone working together. That's exactly what they need, everyone working together.

We would like to ask, where were these critics when they were complaining about the athletics programs when our team had one of the successes mentioned in this letter?

Former Players and Workers
for NCHS Basketball Teams:
Paul Quinn, Mark Vice,
Darrin Hickman, Mike Hatton,
Donald Markland Jr., Peggy Stewart,
Mike Woosley and Michael F. Sowell

Grave decorations should be removed

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I was reading another newspaper and noticed where the cemetery company was asking for people to pick up their Christmas decorations off their loved ones graves. As the mowing season is just around the corner, I would say that our caretakers here in Carlisle would appreciate the same treatment. We would also make our cemetery look better.

Thanks,
Emogene Clinkenbeard
2664 Moorefield Road

Agree or not

10 likely candidates for governor

by S.C. Van Curen

Frankfort — While financial problems are facing states and the federal government, money seems a minor deterrent for ambitious office seekers who seem to be out in abundance and much earlier for the top office in Kentucky.

Although the contest for governor and other statewide offices doesn't come up until 1987, at least eight names of prominent Democrats and two Republicans are floating around as potential seekers of the governor's office.

First off is Lt. Gov. Steven Beshear who makes no bones about his candidacy. He has appointed a 33-member commission formally known as Kentucky Tomorrow, a consultitee for Kentucky's future. There are 13 issue committees with 17 separate members each with a mission to develop a plan and chart Kentucky's course for the next 25 years.

Attorney General David Armstrong's name also bounces about as he keeps his name in the forefront with activities from his office. However, he may be more interested in being lieutenant governor.

Senate President Joe Prather retains a prominent position in Kentucky politics and his name is out there again as a potential candidate for governor.

FORMER Gov. Julian Carroll's name will pop up as a potential candidate and he doesn't seem to be discouraging such talk although there was considerable scandal attached to some of his appointees in his last term.

While talking about former governors, John Y. Brown Jr's. name is frequently mentioned as one to be reckoned with if he chooses to enter the race. He wasn't popular in Frankfort but had a strong following in the state.

Then there's Dr. Grady Stumbo who ran a strong third to Mayor Harvey Sloane in the last gubernatorial race. Stumbo is a likely candidate if Brown doesn't run. Brown strongly supported Stumbo in the last race.

Sloane is also mentioned as a potential candidate provided he wins the Jefferson County judgeship this fall. He has failed in two other efforts to become governor.

This leaves two hopefuls from Gov. Martha Layne Collins' administration — Transportation Secretary Dr. Floyd G. Poore and Wallace Wilkinson, the Lexington developer.

Poore has a good base in Northern Kentucky and it might enure to his advantage in Eastern Kentucky if Stumbo isn't in the race.

Wilkinson was a top fund raiser for Gov. Collins and has gained recognition in political as well as business circles.

MONEY TO wage a successful primary campaign can be a problem for several of these since television has become such a governing factor in politics. It takes more than party loyalty and political connections to win today because voters are far more independent than ever.

On the Republican side, Senator Jim Bunning is going to make another race, he has said. In fact, as soon as the announcement was made that Gov. Collins had defeated him, Bunning said he was running in 1985.

Then, there is Lawrence Forgy, Lexington attorney, who led President Reagan's successful campaign in Kentucky and has strong support in Republican circles. He served as deputy Finance Commissioner under Gov. Louie B. Nunn.

IT'S EARLIER than usual for campaigns to begin, and some of these now being mentioned may fall by the wayside before the filing deadline in 1987.

Down Memory Lane

Shrouts reunited on Leyte; Dotson a prisoner of Germans

Thursday, April 1, 1965

Larry Allison received the most valuable player trophy at the annual basketball awards banquet at the Nicholas County High School cafeteria March 25. Others receiving awards were John Cleaver, G.B. Feeback, Howard McCarty, Terry Barnes, Mike Kenney, Eugene Sibert, Conn Abner, Larry Mattox, Terry Ritchie, Bobby Lynam. Cheerleaders receiving awards were Sharon Ockerman, Judy Whitaker, Rita Dayton, Judy Crawford, Ginger Hamm and Nancy Booth.

Kay Threlkeld, Bill Gaunce, Mark Morrison, Tish, Joe and Ann Burden, students from the Carlisle school, were rated Division I (superior) in solo competition in the Morehead College Music Festival last Thursday.

Life membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was presented Mrs. Tommy Johnson by the Seventh District of the Kentucky Congress at their spring conference in Paris last Thursday. Mrs. Johnson, a former president of the Carlisle PTA, is president of the Seventh District and also holds a life membership in the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Joseph H. (Jock) Conley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frank Conley, has been named to the Dean's List of honor students for the fall semester at Salmon P. Chase Law School in Cincinnati. Mr. Conley, a graduate of the University of Kentucky, will receive his law degree at the end of the current semester with the second highest grade in the senior class.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sparks, a daughter, Carolyn Sue, March 27 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. M.W. Aldridge, Colorado Springs, CO., a daughter, Shelley Bruce, March 24. — To Rev. and Mrs. August Peters, a son, Carl Melvin II, March 29 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Dr. and Mrs. Frank Mathias, Dayton, OH, a daughter, Susan, March 25.

MARRIED — Miss Doris June Lawrence and William G. Talbot III, March 20 at the First Methodist Church in Paris. — Judith Ann Curtis and Glenn Richard Smith, Feb. 3 in Tazewell, GA.

DIED — Carroll S. (Fanny) Vice, 48, March 29 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Lelie Sanford Shannon, 70, Marion, IN, Friday at Marion General Hospital. — George Blount, 61, Depoty, IN, March 29 at Kings Daughters Hospital in Madison, IN. — Mrs. Lillian Wills Hazelrigg, 81, widow of Walter Hazelrigg, March 23 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Mrs. Mayme Judy Elwell, 89, March 24 at the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home in St. Matthews. — Mrs. Lillie Auxier, 80, widow of Fred Auxier, March 25 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Mrs. Tora Ramey, 80, March 26 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Mrs. Stella Ramey Hollar, 77, widow of Edgar Hollar, March 26 at home. — Mrs. Zillah D. Harwell, wife of W. Evans Harwell, Mayo, MD, March 22 in Anne Arundel General Hospital.

Thursday, April 3, 1945

The Kentuckians Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Courier-Journal and Times, was held in the Circuit court room March 31. The following pupils represented their schools: Bonnie Snapp, Barterville; Louise Vice, East Union; June Myers, Ellisville; Eva Mae Bartlett, Headquarters; Bobbie Clark, Miranda; Dorothy Clay, Moorefield; Mary Ruth Bowles, Myers; Ruth Ballard, Parks. Miss Ballard was first place, June Myers second and Mary Bowles third.

Sgt. Marion Shrout and brother Pvt. Avery Shrout Jr. have met on Leyte Island. This was their first meeting in 28 months.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed five small houses and a large barn last Wednesday in the northern end of Berryville. Two stores were also slightly damaged.

Pfc. Harold Dotson, who was reported missing in action Dec. 22, 1944, is a prisoner of the Germans, according to a card received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allie Dotson of Taylors Creek Road.

MARRIED — Miss Mary Dampier and Eugene Wagoner, March 24 at the home of the Rev. W.B. Dampier.

DIED — Robert W. Flora, 78, Fleming County, last Wednesday night in Hayswood Hospital, Maysville.

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Blairs share in history

When the **Blairs** — the **Custers** and the **Pres** — hit the skies to Denver and the NCAA West Regional basketball tournament last week little did they know it would be a part of history.

1, The plane that carried the foursome, a Boeing 767, was the largest commercial airliner ever to land at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport.

2, The Blairs were in the stands for the last game that Joe B. Hall would coach at the University of Kentucky.

The strange thing is they had no long-range plans to be a part of this history, of a sort. Then came a last-minute decision. Would they like to go traveling on the team plane Wednesday? In a matter of hours Carolyn Pres' son Custer, Sara Jim and Proc got their act together and accompanied the players, cheerleaders, band and others in UK's official delegation on the flight to Denver.

And what a trip! Custer was more than a little impressed by the plane and its crew, spending a lot of time in the cockpit area with the pilot and Wildcats, who seemed fascinated by the latest in computerized flying.

But did being there give them an early inkling that Joe B. was calling it quits? No, they found out about the same times as the players...after the game at the hotel. People listening to **Cawood Ledford's** post-game show with Hall right here at home got the word first.

Custer was spotted on television here Thursday while attending a UK practice session at St. Regis College, where Hall began his college coaching career. He was seated in the lower stands, sorta resting his weight on his right elbow.

"I was tired," was Custer's reaction to the altitude, saying that it was especially tough breathing in the ski area of Vail, Colorado, where they toured earlier Thursday. He didn't seem to feel it affected the players' performance. St. John's was simply too much.

The local contingent came home with less than complimentary things to say about **Chris Mullin**, St. John's Mr. All-Everything. They felt the star guard was guilty of a number of fouls that were never called, including what should have been a charging foul that was instead good time. Mt. Hope is supposedly the largest Amish settlement in the country, having eclipsed those in Pennsylvania. Interesting place, auction or not, Billy found.

***

As we suspected she might, Mrs. **Laura Pumphrey** came up with some additional information on the Musketeer Review, our ongoing saga of late. In our last installment, we asked for dates of when the Carlisle High School publication had its second startup. (The first, you'll remember, was the fall of 1929.)

Mrs. Pumphrey was Johnny-on-the-spot since she just happened to be its faculty adviser/sponsor. The date for Vol. 1, No. 1 was November 10, 1945. She remembers it quite well. That was her first year of teaching at the school and helping with the paper fell her lot.

The staff was composed of **Bobby Crawford**, editor; **Jean Irvin**, business editor; **Dorothy Hughes**, sports editor; **Viola Ballard**, news editor and **Gerald Barlow** and **Louise Hopkins**, advertising managers. Co-sponsor was **Supt. R.E. Davis**, who was also in his first year here.

We're not sure how many stops and starts the paper had but the final issue Mrs. Pumphrey has record is that of the year the school was in existence.

Sorry about that.

***

Recent "meatouts," as they are calling the movement to discourage Americans from eating red meat, are the latest in what's become a series of setbacks for local farmers.

You know, switch to chicken or fish or just eat vegetables.

Okay. If the so-called experts on diet will meet us halfway, let's breed a rooster with a cow and come up with a "chick-burger" or a "beef-ken," or some other better mousetrap. A fish/cow crossbreed could result in a "bass-burger" without a lot of pondering.

What's your suggestion? A worn out dollar bill awaits the best name. Give me a call here at the office, 289-2464.

***

Speaking of basketball tournaments, **Emery (Big E) Clark** surely holds the local record for attending the most state tournaments, 50 to be exact. The only year he missed was in 1976, the year following the death of his wife, **Louise**. (Our thanks to the **Rubel Williams** for this timely tip). **EAW.**

Op-Ed page

Thank you for not pigging out

...those calories are very annoying to me

Russ Metz

Being a smoker, and a pipe smoker at that, which is the worst kind to those sensitive non-smokers, I am constantly discriminated against in restaurants and on airplanes by being shuttled to the back seats.

On the other hand, gluttons, who constantly eat between meals in front of you, causing pain and discomfort among anyone nearby are allowed to roam free, smacking their chops anywhere they wish. If the 34 million obese people could kick that eating between meals habit, they would lose a cumulative 170,000 tons of flab in about two weeks.

It is therefore time for a national campaign against eating between meals. And I can think of no better way to do it than to treat the eater between meals the same way us smokers are treated.

For example, the next time you are waiting for a bus, and some thoughtless EBM pulls out a candy bar and starts to munch on it, give it to him with both barrels. Say something like, "Excuse me, but do you realize that every bite of that candy bar destroys 10 million brain cells?"

If he reacts like 99 percent of the average smokers do, his face will redden and he'll throw his unfinished candy bar in the nearest trash can.

When you get to the office, and the EBM who sits near your desk comes in with a jelly doughnut covered with powdered sugar, don't say anything at first. But when he begins to chomp down that jelly doughnut, gently wave your hand in front of yourself. If the EBM reacts like the average smoker, he will ask you if something is bothering you.

Answer with something like, "Well, the powdered sugar from that jelly doughnut is causing my eyes to water and my sinuses to clog up. It's a little annoying. If you wouldn't mind just put your jelly doughnut on the other side of your desk, I think I might not have to go home sick."

If the EBM is like 99 percent of the average smokers, his face will redden slightly and he will take away the jelly doughnut and hide it from your view. He will probably take one more big bite of his jelly doughnut, and then throw the rest of it away.

You can be a big help to the other EBMs in your office by subtly reminding them that they ought to try to kick the habit. Put a sign on your desk that says, "Thank you for not pigging out."

When the EBM near you attempts to stifle a belch after polishing off a large bag of peanuts, ask him if he's had that belch for very long. If he is like 99 percent of the average smokers, his face will redden and he will answer, "Ah, it's just my eating-between-meals belch." When he says this, assume a grim look and walk away nodding your head as if he is a terminal case.

When you see somebody in the office eating a hoagie at 2 in the afternoon, smile at him and say something like this, "I used to eat three of those a day between meals. But one day, right in the middle of my first between-meals hoagie of the morning, I said to myself, 'Who needs this?' I threw my finished hoagie in the wastebasket and I haven't touched one between meals since."

If he is like 99 percent of the average smokers, his face will redden and he will say, "Yeah, I gotta quit one of these days."

If you think your efforts to curtail the eating between meals in your office aren't making much progress, go to your boss and lay your cards on the table. Say something like, "Look, boss. I don't think it's fair to make me or anybody else work right in the middle of a bunch of people who gorge themselves with food all day long.

"Do you realize what it's like being around these people all the time? All that stuff they eat between meals constantly gives off calories and carbohydrates and I am breathing them in. They make me fat and will ultimately kill me!"

If the boss has any heart at all, he will move you into the non-eating between meals section of the office and declare you eligible for 30 more sick days a year because of your allergy. Or he may kick you right out the door. In either case, it will at least be easier for you to kick the eating between meals habit.

— RM —

This guy, who sold hot dogs, popcorn and soda pop, drove his truck into the driveway. It was late at night and his wife, concerned about him, was waiting for him there.

"Whatever happened to you?" she asked. "I was terribly worried about you."

He gave her a hug. "The hog dog wagon broke down," he said, "and I had a lot of trouble fixing it. It was expensive too."

"And there went all your profits again," she said.

At that he smiled and said that wasn't the case at all. He reached into his pocket and pulled out $2,000.

"Where did you get all that money?"

"Selling hot dogs at 50 times the regular price, popcorn for 100 times the price and soda pop for 150 times more," he said.

"Where in the world could you do that?"

"Oh, didn't I tell you? The truck broke down in front of the Pentagon," he said.

— RM —

After reading a column item about a politician who spread rumors that his opponent was a sexaperian when the wife was a thespian and who practiced nepotism with his niece, I came across a similar style of political assassination from the Book of Lists No. 2 on dirty campaigns.

There were rumors circulated about Sen. Claude Pepper of Florida during one campaign. Pepper was described as a "known extrovert," whose brother was a "practicing homo sapiens" and whose sister was a "thespian." Also it was rumored that as a college Pepper attended that he had actually "matriculated" and went of all, "practiced celibacy" before marriage. Pepper lost the election.

— RM —

When you are poor at small talk and even worse at heady talk, you are as out of place as lemonade and sugar cookies at a cocktail party.

Instead of standing around smiling stupidly or wandering around from group to group hoping to be accepted for what you are — a genius nerd — you could be socially significant.

You could merely bring along a pad and pencil, something to captivate your listeners and capture their attention, but you draw a blank. Sometimes you don't live the next week either your way into a circle of strangers, rear back and drop something meaningful on them like:

"I am heading a national fund-raising drive to replace the Statue of Liberty with an even larger likeness of Spiro Agnew."

"My great-grandfather was a teacher who liked to go to ball games dressed in a monster costume and preach in the bleachers. They called him the bleacher teacher preacher monster."

He was the same guy who reluctantly agreed to assume the presidency of his fraternity chapter. Back then they referred to him as the hesitant resident president."

Let me warn you that conversers are untested as cocktail party ice breakers. If you use them, please don't mention my name.

But I do know there are some conservation gambits you should never use. I know from sad experience the only response they will generate is flight. If you see an attractive lady at a party and are anxious to impress her with your savoir-faire, never make overtures with any of the following:

— Do you like lumburger cheese?

— I fog the subject of chromosomes fascinating, don't you?

I heard a funny story the other day, but I've forgotten how it goes. I do remember the punch line, which goes like this: And he couldn't eat graham crackers for a month."

— Do you know how to describe a psychopathic duck? You simply say he's mallard-justed. Yuk, yuk!

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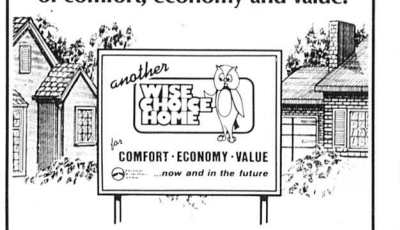

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Cream of the 'crop'

Pat Allison of Carlisle displays a plaque awarded her by the National Association of Crop Insurance Agents for selling the most new crop insurance policies in the United States during 1984. The award was announced at the recent NACIA convention in Minneapolis. Pat, office manager for Kentucky All-Risk Crop Insurance in Paris, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.V. Allison. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and has a MS degree from Syracuse University. —*Photo by Mercury photo*

You are Invited!
The Gateway Singers
of St. Louis College
will perfrom at
Carlisle Christian Church
Sat., March 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Ronald Henwood, Minister

Easter is Sunday, April 7. Call or visit us today.

Small's Greenhouse
Eastern Ave. Phone 289-2256

'Ruddigore' opens new Gilbert & Sullivan season

Gilbert & Sullivan's rollicking operetta, "Ruddigore," starring Vincent Price and Keith Mitchell, opens the 1985 season of "The Gompleat Gilbert & Sullivan" on KET. It airs Wednesday, April 3, at 9 p.m.

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