

FOCUS



Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

From The Desk ...

Most times, when one has a desk, especially in the newspaper business, there is a problem with getting things cleaned up on a regular basis.

In the mail...

From Georgetown, a couple weeks ago, I received a letter from Helen Elaine Schu, who had been a reader during my tenure with the Georgetown News & Times.

It was good to hear from someone from Georgetown, I do on occasion, and it's certainly good to hear nice things. While the Bonds do miss some things about Georgetown, it's certainly good to be here.

KET Problems

O. Leonard Press, executive director of Kentucky Educational Television has put on a statewide letter writing campaign.

He is call for help in protecting continued KET coverage by local cable systems.

He says, "For the most part Kentucky's cable systems have provided good carriage of KET, often to geographic areas which had difficulty receiving our signal clearly in the past ... On the other hand, a few systems have moved or preempted KET entirely. We protest these actions, as do the citizens of those communities."

"We hope you will recognize cable companies who have provided the uninterrupted distribution of KET programs and services and encourage other to return KET to easy access, where it may continue to benefit all Kentuckians."

All of this is true! It's very important you keep in close contact with Central Cable and encourage the system to continue this programming.

The success of the literacy program alone is well worth it, plus the many other fine programs KET offers.

Let's make sure it stays on the air, July 4th Celebration

As you are well aware the Blackberry Festival is underway in Carlisle and Nicholas County. There have been many events planned and these will continue until Saturday night with the 11 p.m. fireworks.

I hope you will be able to get out and enjoy some or all of the events planned.

In Maywille, the city is also planning a big celebration with its Main Street Festival, while beginning next week, the Fleming County Fair will get underway.

For a place where so many say there's no little to do, it appears there is a lot going on within our midst. I hope you have a safe and happy Fourth of July.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

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We The People

200 Years of Freedom

This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. In many ways, the creation of our Constitution was a more important event in our nation's history than the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

In the 17 years between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, America was little more than a collection of 13 bickering former colonies.

Under the Articles of Confederation, America could hardly be said to have a government at all. Congress and the courts were ineffective and the executive branch of government was nonexistent.

So in 1787, many of the same leaders who had so recently won our independence gathered in Philadelphia. Included in their number were such men as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

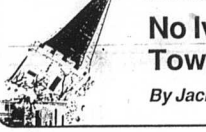
Their goal was to create a new form of government that would be strong enough to unify the states while absolutely guaranteeing individual rights and liberties.

That was also to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution is testimony to their genius. That basic document still protects our right to worship as we please, to speak freely on all issues and to freely communicate with one another through newspapers and magazines without fear of unwarranted government interference or censorship.

The our founding fathers were able to produce a document that would stand the test of time is a tribute to their great political skills as well as their wisdom. Those who work in Philadelphia representing their states began with major differences. Each bill a vision of how America should be governed. Hamilton had an aversion to "the man of the people." He was countered by such advocates of democracy as Virginia's Madison and George Mason.

That our Constitution began as a result of compromise, of give and take between widely differing viewpoints, may be one of the secrets of its greatness. It is our legacy of seeking peaceful solutions for difficult problems and allowing opposing opinions to be openly and freely debated.

This is one of a series of columns celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.



Jack Hall is the publisher of the Berea Citizen in Berea, Kentucky.

No Ivory Tower

By Jack Hall

"Who is the idiot who stuck this up here?" he demanded. "Not I," yelled three of us at the same time.

She corrected the error, all the time mumbling about "ametrains" and "air heads."

A photographer recently emerged from the darkroom with a print for an advertisement. He presented it with pride.

"You jerk," came the response. "This is the wrong house. You had better shape up because your salary is on the line, bustar."

We often are cramped for space in the paper and it becomes a real showing match to see who gets to fill the final few inches.

"Sure, put those ads in there leave out the biggest sports story of year," is a phrase we often hear. "Don't let the fact that I drove to Versailles get this story and picture worry you at all. I am used to being treated like dirt."

"Well, you are lower than dirt if you think we are going to leave out a paying customer so you can promote those tennis jocks," is a standard retort. "We have bills to pay, so don't worry about the possibility of a local team going to a state tournament. That happens every 30 or 40 years so you can cover it next time."

The women seldom let it be known when they are going to the beauty shop. They are tired of hearing, "You wasted your money," or "You mean you actually paid money to look like that!"

But never fear. I have not lost control. The staff knows who is boss. They use terms that are reprecussive. I mean my position, terms like "chick idiot," "head dummy," "boss sucker," and "top jerk."

But it is all fun, I think. At any rate, we remain friends and we pull together when the crunch hits. We share the good times and bad times. We really are a family, and we are.

And besides, the knockheads couldn't be too bad. They win more than their share of awards at the annual newspaper conventions.

LETTERS

Editor: I have read with interest the June 24 editorial regarding a letter asked for print some weeks before. To me this happens often, and in cases where there is productivity, inexact spelling or outright error, I can only see where editing would be necessary, or perhaps even not printing the letter at all.

Let's suppose that those who are in the newspaper business really realize just how liberally most of their readers take such printed word, and how the editing or re-arranging of a sentence or even a single word, could nearly misconstrue the entire meaning of what the writer had intended in his or her message.

In the case of the letter mentioned in this editorial, it seems the editing could well have, and has, lead readers to assume that the writer was just not at all aware of what he wanted to say, not aware of the facts, which, in "The Weekend" the entire point of the letter was.

Judging by articles in this week's paper it seems that in not the case, and the writer was in fact quite sure of what he wanted to say.

I have done tax work for Mr. and Mrs. Myers, and I do not know them for a long time, and only then on a professional basis. They seem to be fine people, not the type to make a print unless it meant a great deal to them, and they were sure of their facts.

It does seem to make any comment on their respectable situation, other than to hope as I am sure you do, that the matter can be settled to the best interest of all involved. My point is with the editing, which did not help anyone.

I sometimes wonder what "Freedom of the Press" really means. I will continue to compare my copy of the paper with the printed form.

Editor's Note: The Carlisle Mercury, as any newspaper, has the right to edit copy submitted in its best interest, while allowing those writing an opportunity to voice opinion. The newspaper will not fall into an editing or no-win argument over this topic. Your letter has been published exactly as you have written it. However, it was reviewed as any other letter would have been.

As for several years ago, when your group presented articles to the Carlisle Mercury for publication, it is impossible to speak to that situation, I am sure.

Freedom of the Press is something which has been earned in this country, even though many years ago editors would make up news to fast controversy, and even wars.

The Mercury does not do this, and as it has been stated, attribution in the responsibility of the writer, not the newspaper.

All anyone interested has to do is review the court cases surrounding which has been earned in this country, even though many years ago editors would make up news to fast controversy, and even wars.

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