

FOCUS

From Left Field By Josh Shepherd

Interesting words at the dedication of the Worthington Center, the new Multi-Purpose building at Blue Licks State Park.

After Representative Pete Worthington finished making his comments on his plans for future development of Blue Licks, Heber Combs, ex-wife of former governor Bert Combs, had some very stirring comments concerning education, the importance of small school education, and Pete Worthington's work on the education committee.

However, though her speech was primarily concerned with student discipline in education and a push against joint consolidation, she made one very interesting statement.

She said Governor Wallace Wilkinson has received undue criticism because he has not learned how to manipulate the media.

Now, I am not launching an attack on her opinions. To be honest, I agreed with many of the things she said, and I really attribute the statement on the current relationship between the media and Wilkinson as a spur of the moment, poor choice of words.

The press is not an instrument to be manipulated. If officials at any level of government perceive the press as a personal public harasser, they will find themselves very mistaken.

As far as government is concerned, the press is an indispensable disseminator of information between it and the people. That is why the press must be, in part, an unbiased reporter of events and issues and an educated critic of government legislation on its own merits.

It is up to the reader to take this information and develop an opinion once the facts are laid out.

I realize in some ways this is a very utopian way of viewing the relationship of press to government, but unlike many other utopian ideals, I do not think it is impossible for press and government not to be on good terms.

However, it is clear that today the relationship between press and politics has become extremely adversarial.

But why does this relationship exist? Certainly, the press has always had a certain bent toward controversy and criticism, but that is part of the job of the press. Without the guarantees of the first amendment, New York Times could not have attacked Tammany controlled New York City during the Thirties, the Washington Post would not have uncovered the Watergate scandal.

But there was a time, not too long ago, when the press enjoyed a certain personal closeness to political officials.

However, it is obvious that relationship has changed.

Due to many factors, namely the growing competition between news media to uncover the exclusive "big story", legislators and government leaders have been forced to regard the press with a justified sense of paranoia.

Though their political stands on issues are subject to open criticism, a necessary and acceptable media practice, their personal

lives have also come under close scrutiny, which may be undue.

The general complaint most political analysts have of modern political campaigns is that the emphasis is no longer involved with issues, but image. I think one major reason for this emphasis is because there are journalists who seem more interested in uncovering a candidate's past than in reporting on issues. Of course, the press is only partially at fault. They report what a candidate says and if the candidate wants to embroil a campaign in moral mudslinging, then the press has no choice but to report how a campaign leads.

But it seems political officials have some difficulty treating the press in its lofty position as "the fourth estate" because of a rise in a subtle brand of yellow journalism that tries to pass itself off as muckraking.

Take, for instance, the recent reports about the Deming High School closing.

Deming superintendent John Smith listed several options the Deming school board had to resolve a financial deficit, among them the closing of Deming High School. The Kentucky Post said in its headline and lead that the superintendent is considering closing the school, which was true. But Smith's statement was taken entirely out of context.

Somewhere in the middle of the story the reporter got around to saying that closing was one of a list of options, but not before it implied that Smith considered closing as the only way out of Deming's financial difficulties.

One suggestion I would make to the Post reporter is to return to school because she obviously skipped the class on journalistic ethics.

It is one thing to report that Smith listed closing as an option and another thing entirely to use one brief statement out of context for obvious shock effect and a page one by-line.

It is no wonder officials are apprehensive if they have to worry that any one thing they say can be subtly twisted or if their personal lives become of more importance to news than their political stands.

The media has an obligation to cover political leaders' work in office and to make a critical evaluation of that stand in order for the people to be more completely informed.

To fully recognize this obligation, officials must try to not view the press as an instrument to manipulate for their own political benefit.

And the press must recognize its own boundaries and, to maintain its own credibility, to disseminate information accurately, to lead with the most important thing the official said but not to exaggerate it to a point that truth becomes a misstatement.

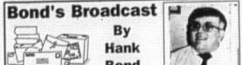
Until Next Week...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor: Recently there have been several articles published regarding the appointment of Property Valuation Administrators (PVA's) in local government. It could mean that your local PVA might not be as qualified or experienced as you are.

First, the impression I get given that the PVA's are unaccountable and assess who and what they please. The Revenue Cabinet consists of monitors sales of property undervalued would eventually have to raise assessments as these parcels sell.

Secondly, any organization will have some do a better job than others. I feel that PVA's as a group will com-



Bond's Broadcast By Hank Bond

Show a little pride, Friday Nicholas County's football contingent will open its home season Friday night as the Blue jackets open their 1989 home season.

The Jacks, although subjected to a tough start with the loss to Fleming County, certainly deserve your support Friday night.

It's everyone's responsibility to support the local teams whenever they play.

This school system and the teams it fields represent the entire county and it's a shame when they have to take the field at home and the visiting crowd is larger than the home crowd.

To put things in proper perspective, it is certainly nicer to win than to lose, but it is still the county's team.

Of course, one of the biggest changes is the lack of support from the student body at NCHS and NCEs.

Decades ago when I was in high school basketball games were the social event of the week. If you were lucky, during basketball season there would be two or one in a while three home games in a week.

We had 3000-4000 people for home football games and 1800-2500 for home basketball games.

Certainly the high school was larger, but the representative number of those attending the game was lucky, during basketball season there would be two or one in a while three home games in a week.

Let's fill up the stands, Friday night, when East Carter comes to town.

There is no reason in the world for the visitors to have any better representation than Nicholas County.

The band will be taking the field for the first time this season - the players have a game under their belt - and although East Carter is an AA team, there's no reason why Nicholas County shouldn't turn out in record numbers to back the local team.

Kickoff is 8 p.m.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR The Carlisle Mercury P.O. Box 272 Carlisle, KY 40311 Deadline 5 p.m. Friday - For Next Week

Editor: I would like to state my opinion concerning the appointment of Property Valuation Administrators (PVA's) in local government. It could mean that your local PVA might not be as qualified or experienced as you are.

First, there is always the question of who will be appointed. I would like to see the state protected to the best interest of Nicholas County residents. It could mean that your local PVA might not be as qualified or experienced as you are.

Secondly, any organization will have some do a better job than others. I feel that PVA's as a group will com-

GENERAL NEWS

Dedications highlight

Continued from Page 1 Edmond and Lida Utkov were placed and room to grow.

The growth potential is here and will be felt for decades to come.

The crowd proceeded to the Licks State Park so there could be the Worthington Center and much more.

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Itself, back to the time when people were coming into this area for the mineral water and also the toll roads from Mayville to Lexington.

She was quoted after reading about the possibility of seeing the Deming School.

Then the Worthington Center was opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Several groups had set up camp above the swimming area depicting the way it was during the time of Daniel Boone.

The White Hawk Rifle Buckkiss had several tents set up.

Boone lost his son Israel on the battlefield in 1782 during this battle.

The man traveled up the hill with guns and many were killed on the field during the battle.

Other areas McCormell is working on.

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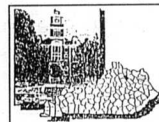
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G.C. Says: "The Chain of Blame, Who's To Blame?"



I'd say, just about everyone in Carlisle and Nicholas County remembers that G.C. (with many other taxpayers) fought the passage of the 1987 Payroll and Occupational Tax.

At this time we were told by our county judge/executive, Judge Presto Smoot, "Quote from the Carlisle Mercury, 'Passage of this tax took like our only application to offset our county's loss of some \$140,000 in Revenue Shoring Income.'"

The way I (G.C.) read it in the Mercury of August 3rd, as of June 30th, 1989, the payroll/occupational tax account shows an income balance of some \$325,000.00

and many, many, tax bills were not mailed out until August of 1989.

By the way, The Carlisle Mercury went on record in support of passage of this tax, but called for strong fiscal restraint.

Recently, I appeared before the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, Tuesday morning, August 15, and asked county judge/executive Presto Smoot why ALL occupational tax bills (business profits) were not mailed before the due date (as stated on tax bills, April 15th, 1989).

Judge Smoot made no comment nor answer or reply to my question. Tax administrator, (appointed by the Fiscal Court I guess), Shirley Gardner, (Judge Smoot's Secretary) stated Businessmen and Farmers run on a different time schedule for tax notices.

Businesses are notified in December and the Due Date is April 15th, but Farmers do not receive the (tax) forms until March and thus, they have a lot of time (business profits) tax.

Lick's like the chain of blame (as I understand it and reported in the Mercury) has been placed on high school students working at the county judge's office under a summer work program (and are still on the job) who sold occupational (business profits) tax bills and not the I.T.P.A. program students as reported.

I guess, who knows? I suspected I was in trouble for a while answer when I was told by the tax administrator, quote, "You see, what you people don't understand is the occupational (business profits) tax is still in the planning stage."

Well, I think I understand and I suspect a lot of good folks in Nicholas County understand.

And it came as a "shocker" when they received (many in duplicate) occupational tax forms in August, stating action on, in 10 days or 15 days from date of notice.

Tax forms they should have received in March (on, in), received in August and I know one thing for sure (believe it or not), they didn't receive their tax bills until after the May 23rd Primary Election. I know this for sure.

The chain of blame, Who? G.C., Myers Carlisle, KY

Advertisement for Deposit Bank of Carlisle. Text: "When you do your checking and saving with us, it helps you when you want to get a loan." "WHAT WOULD YOU DO?" "WE'RE MORE THAN BANKS." "Your Neighbors & Friends" "Deposit Bank of Carlisle".