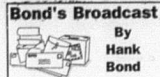


FOCUS



The Piper gets paid sooner or later
Looking around it is becoming apparent that paying the piper ultimately comes to those who try and work outside of the system. It is evident in business and in government. Kentucky's Governor has chosen to tell members of the daily press in Lexington and Louisville that on certain issues all questions must be submitted to him in writing - or he will not respond.

It is also possible to admit certain members of the press are hateful and will stop to any level to get what they consider a story - for that there is no reasonable excuse, either.

This sneaking up on people to get the BIG STORY isn't really what it's all about, however, sometimes it's the only way - a catch 22 of sorts.

In the case of the governor, though, he really hasn't been accountable for any actions. He gives every appearance of being the piper when it comes to finding way to either break the rules or ignoring the obvious.

Media cooperation is just that. If he chooses to want the media to cover his positive actions and support the programs he wants, then when crunch time comes and he is under the public gun he must offer reasonable access and quality answers.

From his actions in the first two years he wants everyone else in Kentucky to be accountable - businesses, individuals, other state officials - but he can pick or choose who and what he should be accountable for.

That's unfortunate for Kentucky residents. Why should it be possible for Kentucky's highest elected official to do this?

In addition, no matter how bad it gets, once the next general assembly adjourns there will be no public accountability for the governor.

Since he must call a special session after the general session he will be shielded from real accountability because the agenda for the special session will require the legislature to simply address only one, specific topic and additional items will not be added.

One suggestion may be for the general assembly of Kentucky to enact legislation with such support a veto could be overridden allowing members to call a session without the governor.

This is truly a check and balance. Something the system has been needing in this state.

Apparently there is not enough support to make a regular session an annual event. Although the economics of this may be extreme to be a competitive state should we not address the state's problems on a yearly basis.

All of this committee meeting stuff has little interest in many cases, because many times the general public won't respond to a meeting call, when the results of that meeting can't physically be addressed for 18 or 19 months.

There's no answer other than change. What those changes are may need to be outlined. But if Kentucky is to be a part of the 1990s on a national level the state will have to operate in 1990 not 1792.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor that the next fire could be your home and every second counts to the Department should be commended for their quick response to the home of Mrs. Stella Hardin on Cas- Thanks again to the Fire 5100 Creek Road on the night of December 11. The good friends and neighbors who responded so quickly to Madal. Mrs. Hardin's help.

But for a gold out driving as if the highway belongs solely to you, just remember

From Left Field
By
Josh Shepherd



Earlier during this Christmas season, as my car was crawling down Nicholasville Road to Fayette Mall, traffic being heavy as usual, I chanced to notice this message in black block letters encased in glass on a church sign.

"Let us hope this Christmas we don't get what we deserve"
I looked to see if the pastor's name had come up to do with the Scrooge family line.

I'm not so naive to believe that we live in a perfect world. During this season, when our thoughts may be a bit too pre-occupied with the beating our bank accounts are taking buying Christmas presents for the year, I couldn't help but feel affected by the attitude expressed in the message on this church sign.

So much pessimism bound in an institution which should be the very heart of the Christmas spirit is enough to dishearten even the most determined holiday celebrator.

But it seems that more and more people these days are filled with more Christmas blah than heart. It is difficult, at least for me, to understand, but though I am sometimes given to misinterpreting signs, this one seemed to indicate the sarcastic spirit that seems to partially accompany the Christmas season here in the latter half of the 20th century.

And yet, though the trials of expensive Christmas shopping and the occasional negative attitude may have caused to bring people down, I stand resolved in my belief in the Christmas dream.

I may be somewhat of the crazy dreamer, but I still believe in the strength of the human spirit to overcome the doldrums, the downside of human life, and make the best of a holiday season in which we have more cause to celebrate than in any year I have yet to know.

Call me a liberal, a day-dreaming optimist with his head in the clouds, (I have been called worse), but throughout this year I believe we have moved closer to world peace than in any time in our recent history. We

have become more sensitive to the plight of the homeless and the needy, though we have not as yet come up with a decent solution to their problem. At least we have not dropped them from our minds as something better swept under the rug than dwelled on.

These things I have noticed and yet the pessimist, in the guise of the wise, still seems able to rear its head and claim we are a callous, uncaring, soulless society.

The pessimist may call me foolish because I do not agree Christmas is more true than its worth, that we fit through the season without conscience or regard for the "true" meaning of Christmas. They may even call me naive because I believe in the Christmas dream and look for the Eastern Star shining in the sky at night, not merely over a mean and lowly manger in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago, but seen overhead of us all with the passing of every year.

Yet I am undaunted, in spite of their cynical taunts that I should be a realist.

Therefore, in the spirit, I wish one and all a hopeful Christmas and a brave New Year, for whatever may befall us, for what we may deserve, know one thing - We are blessed.

I would also like to thank those people who worked hard the last two months for bringing off one terrific performance by the Carlisle Community Cantata Choir last weekend at the Baptist Church.

Nine community churches were represented, the Carlisle Christian, Carlisle United Methodist, Wesley Chapel C.M.E., Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, First Christian, First Baptist, Carlisle Presbyterian, Sharpburg Baptist, and Headquarters Methodist churches.

Soprano — Faye Cursinger, Opal Hamilton, Michelle Knapke, soloist, Brenda Lawrence, Bonnie Metcalfe, Flossie Metcalfe, Lottie O'Bannon, Susan Roberts, Suzanne Rogers, soloist, Becky Woodley, Alto — Sharon Compton, Ramona Goerge, Sherry Howard, Mary Catherine Knapke, soloist, Dorothy Neal, Linda Scott, Gladys Schout, Vicki Sparks, also responsible for recruiting me, and Gayle Thomas. Basses — Rev. Tom Biddle, Custer Blair, Rob "Cut Up" Hester, Jay Reeber, Ron Sabel, Bill Snapp, and David "Hey, Golf Season" Zachary.

Tenors — Pat Allison, Greg O'Bannon, Dr. Tim "HOST PROCLAIM!" Scott, Tom Soper, Alan Sparks, and Rev. Kevin "We Are The World" Thomas. And to the members of the children's choir.

To J.W. Ballard and Rhonda Snapp for their testimony, excellent job.

And a special thank you from the choir to Director Tom "Please Watch Me" Metcalfe and Alana "Rewind, Play" Estle for their patience during rehearsals.

And thanks especially to the people who were able to show up in spite of road conditions to listen. That took guts.

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Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday
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Magic Middle Cookies 1.99	Paper Towels .69	Marshmallow Creme .79	Instant Coffee 2.99	Boneless Ham 2.79
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Country Ham 1.79	Nestle Morsels 1.99	Baking Potatoes 1.29	Pineapple .79	Chuck Roast 1.79
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