FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

Never in my lifetime

As events continue to unfold in Germany and the wall falls, it was certainly something I didn't figure would happen in my lifetime.

For the better part of my life the wall has stood as a symbol of the difference in philosophy and culture.

Then, as quickly as it went up, the wall fell. Thousands have made their way to the wall and into West Germany to see what they have been missing for nearly three decades.

I didn't figure it would happen in my lifetime - or my children's lifetime.

President John Kennedy called for the wall to come down. So have Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush.

Now, after all of these years, the streets are open, the border is open, and as families are reunited, the German people must settle into the reality there may be some problems.

While most Germans and Americans as well are caught up in the fervor of the wall coming down, the reality of housing, food and jobs, continues to haunt the leaders of West Germany - and those people.

As the citizens take hammers to the wall, and the East German soldiers use heavy equipment to bring it down, maybe it's time to consider the possibility of a bait and switch.

Although the Russian leaders appear to behind the entire process, is it possible they are attempting to lull us asleep? Make the big guys comfortable and then hit them in the stomach.

Certainly there is a real possibility the wall will never be there again but, what if the East Germans prove to be too strong and take control of the German government as it attempts to reunite?

What is to stop the communists from taking control of an entire country instead of half a country?

I hope I am wrong. I hope we, as the world's people, have finally moved to make lasting peace.

However, as we continue to read about and watch the events unfold, we should remember we bailed the Soviet Union out in World War II and then took a beating for our assistance - just like in France.

We shouldn't let that happen again.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

From Left Field

By Josh Shepherd

The year 1989 has certainly been interesting from a socialist perspective. But, aside from a few old guard administration officials, few of the changes in many communist countries are seen as blows against socialism but rather an end to isolation and silliness.

However, it is hard to see in what light these changes are taking.

Each new stride socialist countries have made this year have added up to one stunning event after another.

To men such as the retired East German minister, Glasnost seems more to erupt than uniform.

But it cannot be a coincidence that the most startling events seem to occur in the wake of a Gorbachev visit.

Frederick Forsythe, a highly acclaimed political novelist, described the communist world as an empire. And to a very real extent, it is big enough to qualify.

But with the latest elections in Poland removing the Marxist government from power, the thousands pouring out of East Germany through border openings, the unsettling tragedy in China and that country's subsequent media campaign to save face, and finally, the very destruction of the Berlin Wall itself, presents quite a confusing picture. Is the empire beginning to show cracks or is it making strides to solidify its position with its people.

Certainly the last few months have contributed to positive public opinion and the tide of people that swelled across the border during the initial stages of the Berlin Wall destruction has started to recede.

I don't think anyone can reliably say on which side the pendulum has swung in regards to Western socialism.

On the one hand, requests that all members of the Politburo in East Germany resign makes me think Gorbachev is not making many friends. But those he has replaced the politburo with are supporters more accepting of his leadership. Therefore it is difficult to see if his position is solid or tenuous.

But in this beginning golden age of Marxism, the East Germans, once ready to machine gun anyone within a step of the mortar and steel, have suddenly made a 180 degree turn and taken bulldozers through the wall and released their people into the decadent west.

For the old guard, this may seem heresy, but western culture is elated.

This sudden change in relations, however, is somewhat disconcerting. The dismantling of the Berlin Wall seems an extremely bold step forward and one which represents how rapidly the communist world is changing its image.

Gorbachev's public approval rating probably rivals that of Reagan early in his first term presidency.

It is no doubt, for a while, Reagan owned the 1980's as one of the most powerful political figures of the decade.

But our military still train their forces to face a Soviet enemy despite the strides made in developing beneficent relations between the so-called superpowers.

We are at a major turning point in history. Whether it is a "watershed" event depends on what occurs in the next few years. For the love of peace, I hope the changes remain positive.

Hollar part of service

In the following months, the Nicholas County Conservation District would like to invite you to get to Know Your Conservation District.

Each month two supervisors will be recognized. This will serve as an opportunity to inform the citizens of Nicholas County of the activities and responsibilities of the Nicholas County Conservation District and to also focus on our neighbors who serve as supervisors and who are people interested and dedicated to the better stewardship of our resources.

Lovell Hollar

The annual programs are directed by a seven member board of supervisors.

The board members work closely with school teachers, government and business leaders, landowners, students, and others interested in conservation programs.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Nicholas County Conservation District and the United Sates Department of Agriculture.

Through this agreement, employees of these agencies work together in the county soil conservation office located 605 Moorefield Road.

William Lovell Hollar is one of the seven board members.

He has served as a supervisor for more than thirty-seven years, and was instrumental in the organization of the Nicholas County Conservation District.

One major function of the District is to analyze natural resource needs and to design and implement programs to solve soil and water conservation problems.

Mr. Hollar encourages all landowners to use good farming practices and he would like to promote a better livestock program in Nicholas County.

Mr. Hollar says he would also like to see soil and water conservation taught in the school systems as he feels conservation is a basic need to sustain life.

"Serving as a supervisor gives me the opportunity to help promote the need for soil and water conservation, as I feel the need to conserve now is greater than in years past," Hollar says."Cooperation of various farming agencies in our county is something to be proud of and has contributed to our success."

Mr. Hollar is a member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church and he and his wife, Ruth, reside at 201 Lower Jackstown Road.

The Carlisle Mercury/Carol R. Bond Photo

Fire swept through Morehead State University's Switchgear House A, Monday at 2 p.m. The building houses telephone lines for classrooms and office buildings. University officials had to shut down the main power just to enter the building. The power loss stretched from Baird Music Hall to Breckinridge, classroom buildings.The outage trapped several MSU students and staff members in elevators on the campus, however, as of late Monday afternoon, there were no reports of injuries from the power shot down or the fire."When power and phone lines will be re-established is unknown at this time," said MSU Office of Public Safety spokesman Roger Holbrook. At this time the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage is unknown, said Holbrook. Power was restored to the campus about 9:15 p.m., Monday evening. Classes resumed with normal schedule Tuesday, after Monday night classes were canceled. Both Morehead City Fire fighters and Rowan County firemen responded to the blaze, which was contained to the one building. The fire remains under investigation.

Property is wanted

The Kentucky Housing Corporation is seeking referrals of quality rental property for lease to lower income families through the Section 8 "Housing Voucher Assistance Payments" Program.

Rents are determined by the usual market factors and inspections and cannot exceed the Fair Market Rent limit established by HUD regulations for your area.

If your lease with the tenant is approved you will sign a Housing Assistance Payments Contract with Kentucky Housing Corporation.

Advantages to owners include: rental of vacant units, owner selects tenants, retains full management, K.H.C. automatically pays a substantial portion of rent directly to owner, K.H.C. guarantees 80 percent of the rent for up to 30 days upon vacancy in violation of lease, and provision of rental increases after a year.

To find out more about this program, contact the local agent:

Community Action Council, 149 Scrubgrass Road, Carlisle, KY 40311.

Contact: Veronica G. Clark, 289-7172.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Mitzgar and the members of the First Christian Church for the efforts they made in making Wakie Wednesday a very wonderful experience for our son.

The members of the Christian Church have worked tirelessly to provide a positive Christian atmosphere for the young people of our community.

Our son really enjoyed the fellowship with all the children and looks forward to attending every Wednesday.

I think the community should applaud the members of the First Christian Church.

Ron and Carolyn Baker

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GENERAL NEWS

PACE a success

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County is one of three Kentucky Kindergarten programs featured in the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Marium Williams, vice principal of the Nicholas County Elementary School, said Nicholas was chosen by a group of three High Scope program trainers to represent the Kentucky Project before a crowd of 25,000 educators and school administrators.

Williams, along with Georgia Becker and Anne Baird, were asked to appear on a panel to present the High Scope approach and the findings concerning the success school systems have had with the program. Anne Baird was unable to attend, but Williams and Becker did.

High Scope, developed several years ago at the University of Michigan, is an offshoot idea of the Parent and Child Education (PACE) program lauded by First Lady Barbara Bush.

The general theme of the program was Challenges of Changing to an Appropriate Curriculum for Children ages 5-8.

The PACE program is one effort educators have implemented to encourage education in children and also improve adult education.

Williams said the program involves basic literacy.

While an adult learns in the adult education program, the child is also learning in another class.

Parents then may get with their child and both practice reading to each other. According to Williams, the PACE program has met with success.

High Scope, however, is a teaching approach geared toward younger children. It stresses learning on a much different level than the traditional modes of education because, according to Williams, it has been found children resist text book teaching if they have no early success with it.

The High Scope program has only been implemented in the Nicholas County school system for two years, Williams said. The first year the program was incorporated in the kindergarten only, she said. However, aspects of the program, in advanced applications, can be used in the first and second grades.

"The program moves away from traditional modes of teaching where children are taught to recite and memorize texts. But the normal attention span of a child often inhibits sound learning," Williams said."High Scope focuses on the intellectual development of a child."

Low CTBS test scores, Williams said, showed Nicholas children had capabilities excelled in concrete aspects of education, facts and definitions, but when it came to applying these principals, synthesizing information where the use of these facts become more abstract, Nicholas students have difficulty applying learning, Williams said.

"Learning by doing, active rather than passive educational approaches, and decision-making at an early age sets much more firm ground for students to learn," Williams said.

The practical gains of the High Scope idea have been tested most completely in elementary schools in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The study, conducted over a 19 year time period, was given benefit of a test group and control group in order to make comparisons, Williams said.

According to findings of the study, the control and study groups taught in both the traditional and High Scope methods scored roughly the same on standardized tests measuring the students grasp of basic material. However, researchers have said the High Scope group was more advanced in other areas standardized testing cannot measure.

The study group, Williams said, had an improved capacity for grasping a wide range of material while the traditional group varied widely according to individual strengths in different subject matter.

"There needs to be more emphasis put on the synthesis and application of material, instilling in the child a developing ability to think creatively and to develop original thought rather than learning by rote," Williams said.

Along with the general assessment of the imperative need for better educational methods is an improvement in the way intellectual progress in early childhood can be measured, Williams said.

The Carlisle Mercury/ Josh Shepherd Photo

Dr. Marium Williams and Georgia Becker listen as kindergarten children read self-written stories. Williams and Becker, with Anne Baird, were invited to be part of a panel of educators endorsing the benefits of the "High Scope" program for early school education.

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