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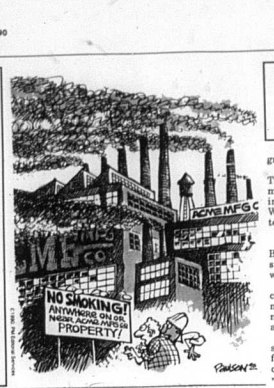


Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

Saying goodbye isn't easy; but future can be bright

Saying goodbye to employees who have been here for several months, but as we look to the future it will be bright for these young people.

Kara Read, who has been serving as a member of the editorial staff and as a big contributor in the composition area will be putting the final touches on her final projects this week as she makes plans to leave The Mercury and move back into the academic world.

After gaining her degree at the University of Kentucky and spending time here in Carlisle she has decided to cast her lot with law school next year and has to make ready to execute those plans.

Kara will be leaving The Mercury December 14 to begin her travels through the rigors of gaining entrance to . . . and finishing I am sure . . . law school

Tim Jones, who also has a degree from the University of Kentucky, four years military experience in the U.S. Marines, and several months at The Carlisle Mercury will also be leaving during the month of December.

Tim, who has worked diligently to make the editorial package strong and well representative of the Carlisle — Nicholas County market has decided to alter slightly his career patterns and will moving to another area of career pursuit.

Tim will be here through most of the month and will continue to be an important part of the process we call the deadline until then.

I have no doubt both of these individuals will do extremely well in their chosen paths. Both have the ability to contribute, participate and execute in whatever endeavor they choose.

The Mercury family wishes them well with the confidence of their success a certainty.

It's time to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate

This Saturday the Nicholas County Fire Department will continue in its quest to aid the needy by staging a food pick-up throughout the city as well as taking donations during Santa's visit.

For nearly a decade members of the fire department have participated in delivering Christmas packages to those less fortunate during the holiday season.

The members have distributed hundreds of food baskets and packages of toys to assist many who are unable to have a Christmas at all.

This year the need is as present as ever.

Talking to Mark Hughes about this year's drive he is concerned about the food and toy giving project more than ever before.

Last year was the most successful in the project's history with more food and more toys than ever. This year, however, the firemen are worried there simply may not be enough.

This Saturday morning, December 15, firemen will move through the streets of Carlisle from 10 a.m. to noon looking for donations of food placed on the porches of area residents.

If you're able to help, simply place the food (non-perishable) in bags on your front porch, and firemen will be there to pick it up.

Also, if you live in the county or forget to place your donation outside in town, firemen will be entertaining Santa at the firehouse Saturday afternoon, and will accept donations at the fire department until 5 p.m.

Firemen are also in need of toys for the Christmas drive and your donations are requested.

Make time for the less needy and help the fire department to spread Christmas joy. You can drop off your donations (food and or toys) at The Mercury office, Monday through Friday until December 21 if you're unable to get to the fire department and we'll make certain they all get passed on.

I urge every business to donate a complete dinner to the drive, The Mercury has, and if you can do more please do so. Simply call Mark Hughes to spread the Christmas cheer.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mark Hughes at 289-7226 or 289-2369.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

Plain Talk

By Tim Jones

I've been mad since the middle of last week.

I was watching the 6 p.m. news on a Lexington television channel. The station had a "big story" about a protest at the University of Kentucky.

Know what they were protesting at UK?

The draft.

Yeah. The draft. Someone whispered the "D" word on campus and suddenly lots of college students turned into peace activists.

I'll guarantee most of these kids could have cared less about the Persian Gulf crisis until the draft rumor got started. I know they weren't protesting until they heard about the draft rumor.

What upsets me the most is the selfishness these students have displayed. As long as they thought the war was going to be fought by poor kids, they didn't mind. At least, it wasn't enough of a problem to protest about. Once these college kids heard a casual rumor about the draft, though, they took to the streets.

Why?

The protesters will claim we should let Arabs settle an Arab problem. They will say we shouldn't fight for oil. Why didn't they say the same things four months ago when we first deployed troops to Saudi Arabia?

Because they're selfish.

As long as someone else was going to fight, it was no big deal. As long as poor kids from the ghettos, barrios and rural areas were going to die they didn't care.

The protesters will say they don't want anyone to die. "We were always against this," they'll say.

I honestly believe they don't want anyone to die. But it wasn't until they felt threatened that they felt strongly enough about it to protest. If kids from ghettos, barrios and backwater towns die, it's a real shame. But if the government threatens to interrupt their educations and careers with something trivial like a war, it's a violation of their rights and they won't allow that to happen.

It sounds like a double standard to me. If poor kids fight, these protesters will complain and then they'll get along with their lives and their careers. But if they so much as hear a rumor about the draft, I mean we're talking about a baseless rumor here, they'll cry and scream and try to tear our society apart.

These actions, and my experience in the Marine Corps, lead me to believe we should have a draft. Everyone has a stake in our country and everyone should have to pull their own weight.

Let the ones who want to join the military enlist. Make up for the remainder with the draft. Don't spend money on recruiting, just tell kids where the station is located. Take the ones who want to enlist and draft the rest.

Make it a fair draft, too. No exemptions for college or anything else. If you're a conscientious objector become a cook or a chaplain or a medical corpsman. The poor man has carried America's rifle alone for too long.

I know where I speak on this subject. When I was an executive officer of a rifle company in the Marine Corps, less than ten of 150 kids were from what would be considered upper middle class backgrounds. Most were from households far below the poverty level.

These kids do their best. For the most part they are excellent Marines and soldiers. But let's make it equal. Make the senator's son and the chief executive officer's son serve like the son of a welfare mother in Detroit.

The sons of affluent Americans will learn a lot if the country does this. They learn "those poor people" are just like they are. They'll learn a lot about themselves too as they hike hills and wade streams.

Maybe, just maybe, they'll learn what its like to think of people other than themselves. After what I've seen this week, I know its a lesson they can stand to learn.

Read Between The Lines

By Kara Read

Too often people don't say thank you. We take for granted all that other people do for us.

Well, now is my time to says thanks. I am leaving The Carlisle Mercury after this week is over. I'm moving back to Lexington and in February, I am going to take the Law School Admittance Test. Whether I will actually go to law school will be determined from that point.

So on with my thank yous.

Thanks to my employers, Hank and Marilyn Bond, for giving an unexperienced writer a place to start. Without this experience, who knows what I would be doing.

The biggest thanks goes to all the people of Nicholas County for being so friendly and receptive to me. It's not easy moving to a place where you know no one, but the community made me feel welcome and for that I am grateful.

Thanks to all of my neighbors who helped me get settled in my apartment. They have all been so friendly. Bettie Payne even baked zucchini bread and cobbler for me. She said she was watching out for me.

Thanks to all of the people I have worked with to write my stories: Mayor Frankie Hughes and the Carlisle City Council, all of the people at the board of education, the high school and the elementary school, Rose Brady and the people at the Property Valuation office and the Carlisle Police Department to name a few.

I could never list everyone but thanks to all of you anyway.

Thanks also to all of the people I have worked with at The Mercury for being friendly and helpful.

I have enjoyed my time in Carlisle, even though it was short. I've only been here since the end of July but I feel like I've come to know many people and have made a few friends.

People come and go but places always stay. I will never forget this place and the experience I had here, nor will I forget the people and the way I was treated. I was a newcomer but I was never treated as one.

I hope that I have made some impact here. I hope that my contributions to the newspaper have helped the people of this community become more aware. I hope that my articles and columns have been enjoyable to read, after all, what good is information if it's not readable?

So, my final thanks to everyone. This was a good start for me after college and I hope the rest of my days only get better. To the people here I wish only the best.

Letters To The Editor

Editor:

As many of you are probably aware by now, our school board has decided to go ahead and build a new school bus garage.

The total cost of this endeavor is over half a million dollars. They have also been doing a lot of work on the board of education building along with their new sign and shrubbery.

We couldn't spend less money and renovate the bus garage we have? (We might save money.)

Our federal taxes were increased this year, along with our state taxes. Naturally our property taxes had to be raised also. The main cause for the state tax increase was the education reform.

This was one of the reasons our property taxes also were increased.

With our country in a possible recession and maybe a war, the idea is to keep money in circulation. Raising taxes is not my idea of keeping money in circulation. I guess as long as my tax money goes for educational needs of my child it doesn't make me feel as bad having to pay them.

My parents live in a neighboring county and they always have and continue to pay less taxes than our county. Yet, their school system ranks in the top fourth of the state and ours ranks in the bottom fourth.

I know they have a lot more businesses to contribute to their educational system, but they also have a lot more students in their school system per ratio.

It makes you wonder where our school board members' priorities are at.

We voted them into their season and I think we should remember their decisions the next time their seats are available in the election.

We have some of the best teachers and faculty that anyone could ever need. However, if they don't have the needed resources and supplies they can't work to their full potential.

They also need the proper environment (walls in classrooms) to do their best. I know this is a future project but it should be at the top of the priority list.

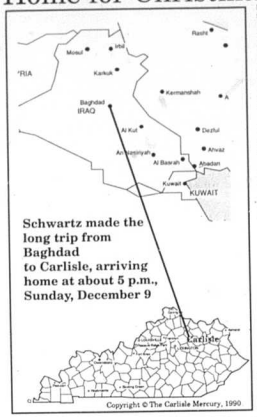
The classes need more computers, a good gifted student program, better supplies for classrooms and college preparatory classes for college bound students. Where are our priorities?

I guess we might not have the best school system but will have the best school bus garage and nicest looking Board of Education building than any county around us.

Paula Hunter
Bald Hill Road

Letters To The Editor
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311

Home for Christmas



Schwartz made the long trip from Baghdad to Carlisle, arriving home at about 5 p.m., Sunday, December 9

Continued from Page 1

"There were some relief troops sent in to replace the soldiers in place for the Iraqi army. We watched as some of the replacements actually got mad, because the ones there first had gotten the pick of the looting."

But, according to Schwartz, the looting was only a small part of the horror he witnessed while inside the embassy.

"We watched and did see the execution of a lot of innocent folks. These were true executions, too. Not where someone was trying to run away . . . but where people were marched out and executed.

"The innocent people were executed as a lesson to others."

According to Schwartz these executions . . . and all of the other military activity . . . were common knowledge to Hussein.

"Nothing is done by the Iraqi army without the knowledge of Hussein — nothing is done without a direct order from him."

On August 23 Schwartz and those with him were ordered to Baghdad with the understanding it was to only stop for three or four hours to get the paperwork to allow them to drive out of the country.

But, as in the past for Schwartz, he found Hussein was lying.

"When we got to Baghdad we found out he had lied and officially had changed his mind — nobody was to move."

As for supplies, while in Kuwait water was the only problem, especially after troops surrounded the embassy and cut everything off.

"We had to make do with bottled water, which had been stored, and an Olympic size swimming pool, which luckily was full.

"When we did get to Baghdad things were a little improved.

"We were able to move without worrying about getting shot, but we knew Hussein wanted to round up westerners if at all possible and ship them to sites."

The sites — which are strategic in nature — surrounded what the Iraqi leader considered important and were ultimately shielded by hostages.

"We never went anywhere alone," Schwartz said after his 15 vehicle caravan was diverted, then stopped, in Baghdad.

"We used diplomatic vehicles when we could. Some of those in the caravan from Kuwait went to diplomatic housing, but I stayed in the embassy."

Schwartz said he was with Mr. Joe Wilson, the Charge 'de Affaire, who in the absence of the U.S. Ambassador acts in their sted.

The ambassador, April Glaspie, had already left.

Schwartz remained in a 25 mile radius of the embassy until his release December 8.

"Actually some of the men had gone to help their wives get out of the country. When they got there they were told 'fine, your wives can leave the country, but you're going to a site to sleep on some factory floor.'

"Iraq refuses to acknowledge any normal diplomatic routines. That is evident from the way he has operated from the beginning.

"When we did travel — even together — we were surrounded by secret police from Iraq.

"You see, you took a chance even going to the street corner. If you were stopped, and they didn't like your looks, then you were shipped off to some site."

When it came to contact with the outside world there was the good and the bad.

"We were able to call back to our wives," Schwartz explained, "but, you had to be very careful since every conversation was tape recorded.

"We were always under the threat a terrorist team would visit our wives or children if they somehow were able to get ahold of the numbers."

There are three things you can almost be certain won't be on the table for Christmas dinner . . . or for dinner at all . . . at the Schwartz home.

"*Tuna, Chicken and Rice* are three things I have on my *won't eat list.*

"We have a standing joke that for a Kuwait invasion the diet should be: adrenaline, artillery and shell fire, and tuna and rice."

During the ordeal Schwartz dropped 51 pounds. Losing the weight was good, but not that way.

"While we were in Baghdad we had the opportunity to work out, but that was not the way I really wanted to get down to maximum physical fitness.

"While the food situation wasn't bad with rice, tuna and chicken, food in general was available to the populus who were able to pay the inflated prices the government and merchants chose to charge.

"From what I could see there was just as much food as ever available."

Freedom . . . and being home . . . has meant many things for Schwartz.

"The ability to talk without fear of the secret police . . . the ability to travel without fear.

"It was made pretty clear we were considered spies — and there was only one way spies were treated — and still are — and that's to be shot."

While food was available, sleep wasn't all that easy to come by.

"I usually operated with about two hours sleep a night — you sort of had to sleep with one eye open anyway.

"The worst thing about it all was he (Hussein) is unpredictable."

Schwartz was lucky enough to bring back a souvenir from Kuwait. He has the last drop of oil taken from Kuwait before Iraq forces took over the country. It is enclosed in a Lucite cube.

But for Christmas the Schwartz family is just glad to have their father and husband home — *with or without presents.*

"I'll have some time to spend with my family and see some things I have missed," he said of his visit home.

Schwartz also expressed his appreciation to the people of Nicholas County.

"I am grateful to the folks in Carlisle for making it a safe place for my family while this was going on.

"The support given to both kids and Terri is deeply appreciated."

Was Schwartz excited to walk down the ramp of the airplane watching his family come toward him?

"It made it awful hard to breath and to swallow."

God Bless America . . .

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GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

It's that wondrous time of year, when nature wears her dazzling gown of white! We wish you a joyous Yuletide!

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