Ron's Review

Ron Middleton
Staff Writer

Clones and a random thought

I know this is old news, but wouldn't it be really cool to have your own clone?

It just seems that there are not enough hours in the day to complete all the necessary tasks of a normal person's life, and a pair or two of extra hands around the house wouldn't hurt.

I mean, you automatically know that you can trust yourself, so you can skip the drug testing and background checks.

If you can't trust yourself, put down the newspaper and seek help... now.

Plus, they could serve as live-in organ donors. Or maybe you could end up as one of the clones' organ donors...

Don't give me that look, like you wouldn't give a kidney or some blood to 'yourself.'

Talk about selfish!

Heck, who am I kidding? I would just use having a clone as an excuse to stay at home watch T.V., play video games, surf the Net and read comic books.

I would never have to leave the house again! I would just sit back and let all my clones do the work: work work, house work, laundry:

But if they are me... wouldn't they want to be the ones who are playing "slacker?"

DOH! Another great idea down the drain.

And I wouldn't be the only one to have this idea.

You'd have to house them, feed them, make sure they have jobs, worry if they are getting enough sleep and on and on...

Maybe clones aren't such a good idea after all.

Aw heck, I guess I'll just have a kid or two... Nature's clone.

Random thought

Okay, after the Sept. 11 attacks, the government assigns all these sky marshals to protects us when we're in flight.

Great idea.

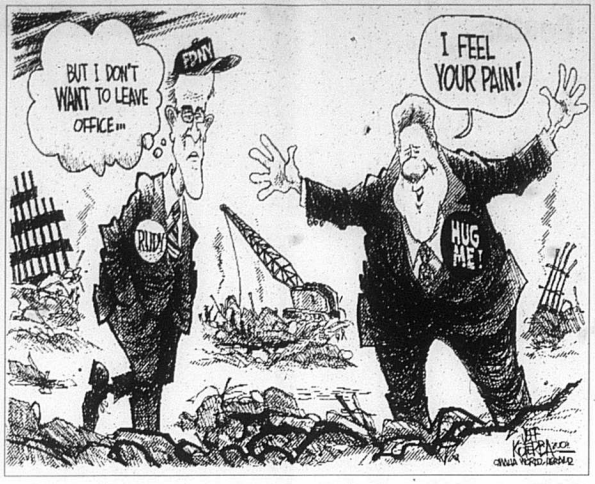
They work four or five days a week and get to fly all around the country for free, plus we all feel a lot safer in the air.

On a side note, do we really feel safer that people have guns on pressurized planes that fly at 30,000 feet?

Theoretically, one errant shot through the hull and the plane would be peeled like a banana and passengers would be dropping like flies.

Wouldn't it be better to equip them with tranquilizer guns? What good is a dead or terminally bleeding

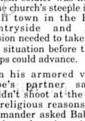
See CLONES on 5



Commentary

A salute to our veterans

From the Sidelines



Denver Brown
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, I thanked a vet out loud for probably the first time in my life.

In my journalism career I've 'thanked professional athletes, governors, university presidents and pee-wee superstars for their time or effort. But for whatever idiotic reason, I'd never told a United States veteran thank you.

I corrected that horrid mistake this past Sunday afternoon.

After covering the Morehead State women's basketball game, I got in touch with my great uncle in Cape Coral, Fla. Nearly a dozen men had been recognized at halftime of MSU's win (by the way, a bunch more of you fans should have jumped to your feet when these American heroes took center court!) and another vet sang a self-written song for the occasion.

My uncle, Babe Curtis, was one of three of my grandparents' brothers to suit up for Old Glory. Babe and his brother, Bud, are both natives of Cynthiana in Harrison County and were both in the army. My uncle Vaughn Huffman served in the navy. Sunday, I made sure Uncle Babe knew of my appreciation.

When I was 18 or 19-years-old, I was hoping I make the right career choice in college. My uncles were hoping to *stay alive*.

These men, just a few years out of high school, packed up and went wherever our government needed them. And today I watch ESPN and listen to squalling, over-paid, spoiled adult athletes wanting to be traded here for more money or to there because they like that coach better! Please! So many brave young people had to die in the name of freedom and liberty so these hot shots could peruse their dreams - and how many times have they thanked a vet? I'll tell you, probably not many.

I can't even pretend to imagine what it must have been like. That's the one thing about this great country of ours - so many heroes sacrificed their hopes, dreams and their very lives so the United States of America could remain the land of opportunity, and so young people like me wouldn't have to worry about the future. The survival of our nation rode on the shoulders of young people barely older than most athletes I cover today. Pretty scary thought, isn't it?

In August, I had the chance to sit and talk with Uncle Babe about his experience in World War II. I'd never asked him about it before. I knew he had been wounded and it had been about 15 years since my last American history class. But this summer's conversation will stay with me forever.

Sitting in lawn chairs on his driveway, Uncle Babe offered up war stories. Not glorified Hollywood-style sagas, but actual occurrences and events - stories just the same. He was interrupted several times, he is the block chairman of the neighborhood watch and it was national 'Neighborhood Night Out' so folks walked by waving and hollering greetings from the street. My Aunt Betty came out of the house to sit with us, bring us cans of pop and listen.

He told me so many things. I had the guts to ask him if Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* was accurate. He said as close as any. The gore. The smoke. The anguish. It was all very real. And this man, 80 years old next week, lived through it. He hit the beaches of Normandy on June 13, just days after D-Day.

Uncle Babe was in the army for five years, three of those spent overseas in Luxembourg, Germany and France. He was in reconnaissance with the fifth infantry division third army under General George Patton. Yes, *the* George Patton!

Of all the war talk and images burned into my mind that summer night in Florida, one helps me define the term hero.

He told me of one specific night in France when his unit was trying to find a sniper. A German soldier was holed up in the church's steeple in some small town in the French countryside and Babe's division needed to take care of this situation before the U.S. troops could advance.

In his armored vehicle, Babe's partner said he couldn't shoot at the church for religious reasons. Their commander asked Babe if he could see the sniper. And if *he* would be able to take him out.

My uncle got the man in his sites, asked his ammunition loader to ready the gun and then Babe hit his mark. *I think he was 20 when he had to make that decision.*

I'm proud my uncle was part of an effort that allows me, today, to have the freedom to worship however I want. Or to work wherever I want. Or to dream about whatever I want. And to be whoever I want.

What do 20-year-olds think about today? What college to go-to, Where to work, to get married, how to plan for the future? Probably. They should thank my uncle, too. Uncle Babe's a hero. He doesn't call himself a hero. But I do. And there are way too many unthanked heroes in this nation.

If you didn't thank a veteran this weekend for Veterans' Day, go out and do it today. Better still - thank a vet *every* day!

See you at the game.

THE CARLISLE MERCURY
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Ron Middleton
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Denver Brown
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Fax 606-784-7337
USPS #090-820

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Magistrate
Jeff Randolph

Magistrate
Steve Hamilton

Nicholas County "Bluejackets" Boys Basketball 2001-02 Schedule

Game time 6:00/7:30 (G/B DH 6:30/8:00) Unless noted

Home Games in bold • - district games

Nov. 27	at Bath Co.
Nov. 30	**MASON CO.**
• Dec. 4	at Harrison Co. (G/B DH)
• **Dec. 7**	**PARIS (G/B DH)**
Dec. 11	at Fleming Co.
Dec. 14	**DEMING**
Dec. 17	at Montgomery Co. (V only-6:30)
Dec. 21	**SAYRE**
• Jan. 2	at Bourbon Co.
Jan. 4	**AUGUSTA**
Jan. 8	**ROWAN CO.**
• Jan. 11	at Paris (G/B DH)
Jan. 15	at Deming
• **Jan. 19**	**BOURBON CO.** (2:00/3:00)
Jan. 22-26	All "A" Region (Bracken Co. Host)
Jan 27	at Bracken Co.
Feb. 1	at Raceland
Feb. 5	**BAREA**
• **Feb. 8**	**HARRISON CO.**
Feb. 12	St. Patrick
Feb. 15	**CASEY CO.**
Feb. 19	Pendleton Co.
Feb. 22	**MENIFEE CO.**

Girls hoops preview and schedule in next week's issue

Denver Brown photo

2001-'02 Nicholas County Freshman Jackets

CLONES FROM 4

terrorist? They already WANT to die.

Anyway, according to news reports, once these marshals are done with their week, they are stranded in the city where their last flight landed.

The airlines give them the option of PURCHASING a ticket to get back home, otherwise they are stuck in a hotel for three days.

Let me get this straight, these guys are putting their necks on the line every day they work to hopefully save lives while being flown, FOR FREE, and they can't spring for one lousy ticket so that these brave men and women can get home to see their family once a week?

They should have their stimulus package revoked immediately.

That's just my opinion.

Actual user opinion may vary.

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MSU planning eating disorders conference

Planner's of Morehead State University's Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention Conference have announced a call for papers to be presented at the program on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

The deadline for accepting proposals is Saturday, Dec. 1. Submission of a 300-word abstract with a title page containing the author's name, postal and e-mail addresses and telephone number may be sent to Mary Jo Netherton, associate professor of French, UPO 1215, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351, or m.nether@morehead-st.edu.

Topics may include: prevention of eating disorders; how to help a friend with an eating disorder; issues of recovery; treatment; education programs; serious health consequences; high risk groups; suspected causes and precipitating factors — sociocultural influences; and issues of body image. Student papers are welcome.

The conference, sponsored by the Epsilon Theta chapter of Chi Omega, the Women's Studies Program and the Life Enhancement Office, has a $10 registration fee without meals and a $35 charge, including meals. Students will be charged only for meals.

Dr. Susan Bordo, Otis T. Singletary Chair in the Humanities, will be the featured keynote speaker for the Feb. 26 session. She is the author of "Unbearable Weight" and "The Male Body".

Additional information is available by calling Netherton at 783-2779.

***

Judge men not by their opinions, but by what their opinions have made of them.
—George Christoph Lichtenberg

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Read Denver Brown's Salute To Veterans on Page 4!

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