Ron said...

Ron Middleton
Staff Writer

What in the world...?

Since we've added DSL service here at the newspaper, I have instant access to news items from all over the world.

I usually get these gems of journalistic candy through what are known as "portals." (my.yahoo.com and www.excite.com are examples and yes, I make the little air quotes with my fingers every time I say that.)

Once you register, you can customize it to your heart's content. You can have as much or as little on your page as you want, provided you spend the time to choose everything.

For example, on my Yahoo! page, I have weather and new movie and video releases on the left side; health and fitness articles down the right; and down the middle... well, that leaves everything else.

That middle section contains everything from political cartoons to horoscopes and T.V. Listings to headlines from every subject imaginable, but mostly entertainment, because I just can't help myself.

By far, my favorite section of headlines concerns the "News of the Weird"-type stories.

Most of the stories concern things that happen in other parts of the world, like the girl in Chile that walks around wearing only a backpack (as in naked) as performance art to the Canadian boy, nicknamed "Sewer Boy," who survived five hours in sewage three feet deep under the streets of Ottawa.

The thing that caught my attention today was a story about a popular music network being sued by a couple.

In and of itself, not earthshattering, but the reason they are suing is the strangest part of all.

It seems the vacationing couple entered their hotel room and found what appeared to be a dead body with blood everywhere and made the conclusion that it was a murder victim.

As an added bonus, they were being taped with hidden cameras.

The couple ran (wouldn't you?), but were blocked by actors posing as security guards while a third actor, dressed like a paramedic entered the room.

They were then given the old "Smile, you're on Candid Camera" treatment, so the couple turned around and

See WHAT on 6

Opinion

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Commentary

The Civil War: gallantry and savagery

Head of the Holler

Garry Barker
Guest Columnist

I offered to show up on Civil War Day at the school where Danetta teaches posing as the outlaw Josie Wales, charging in with the sun to my back with a black powder revolver in either hand, but figured I'd either fall off the horse or forget how to use the brakes and wind up in Maysville.

At least I'd have been following the historic route of General John Hunt Morgan and his raiders when they rode north for the last time.

And I'd have been on the route of the Underground Railroad, the secret path to freedom for escaped slaves.

A Civil War era Missouri guerrilla fighter might create a stir these days, armed to the teeth with revolvers, which the Confederates figured out early in the war were much better than swords for close range warfare. Back then there was no reloading on the run, so in the movie Clint Eastwood carried six pistols when he attacked.

It'd take me a week to load a half dozen black powder hoglegs.

A more current movie, "Ride With the Devil," also gives an accurate portrayal of the western Civil War battles between the bushwhackers and Union army.

For historical accuracy on the eastern front watch "Gettysburg."

Or "Andersonville."

But for sheer romance, "Gone With the Wind" is still king of the Civil War movies, as good today as it was when it was released, the saga of an elegant culture coming to a violent end.

Robert E. Lee is probably still America's best known general, nearly 150 years after he led the Army of Northern Virginia, a daring and maybe slightly deranged leader whose followers did anything he asked of them. Outnumbered in every battle, always short of ammunition and equipment, Lee won by throwing every man into battle, holding back no reserves, and by using his mobile army in flanking movements which are still studied and used by military strategists.

The Civil War was one of incredible gallantry, from both sides, and of equally incredible savagery, also from both sides.

Kentuckians led both sides during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were born not far apart in Kentucky, and both knew the importance of their home state to the politics of the war.

Historians have since said that Kentucky won the war and lost the peace, choosing to become even more of a southern agricultural state and effectively hindering industrial development for about another century.

Prior to September 11, there were probably as many Confederate battle flags in Kentucky as there were stars and stripes, though Kentuckians have fought bravely in every American war.

The war between the states still fascinates people of all ages. It was the first and last time we fought each other, and it forever changed the fabric of American life.

Ironically, the fictional outlaw Josie Wales is as well known as the colorful George Custer, maybe the only Union cavalry officer so audacious enough that he could have been a success working for General Lee.

Josie had a better script, though.

And he won his final battle.

Contact the author at garrybarker@netscape.net or www.angelfire.com/ky/barker.

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212 Public Notices

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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of Highways in the Division of contract Procurement and/or the Auditorium located on the 1st Floor of the State Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky until 10:00 A. M. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME on the 28 DAY OF JUNE 28, 2002, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the improvement of:

CBGR 02 0000048, NICHOLAS COUNTY.
Asphalt Surface on Various Roads.
(See proposal for additional information)

Bid proposals for all projects will be available at the Division of Contract Procurement until 3:00 P.M. Daylight Savings Time, preceding the day of the letting of Friday, JUNE 28, 2002. Bid proposals for all projects will be available at a cost of $10 each and remittance payable to the State Treasurer of Kentucky must accompany request for proposals (NON-REFUNDABLE). BID PROPOSALS ARE ISSUED TO PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS.

Specimen proposals for all projects will be available to all interested parties at a cost of $10 each (NON-REFUNDABLE). Specimen proposals cannot be used for bidding.

C L A S S I F I E D

Pastor's Pen

The measure of greatness

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and... slave of all."

Whoever would be great. That is a problem that plagues us all and we are still searching for answers.

We use the same word to speak of a vast variety of concepts. We talk of great beauty, we live in a great city, a great state and a great country, and sometimes are greatly surprised. We all know about Alexander whom we call great, meaning distinguished, famous, extraordinary, admirable and noble. Even failing those, we all admire some great hero: a great basketball player or a great runner or a great boxer or a great president, and perhaps occasionally at least, a great preacher.

"Great" is a concept we talk about and use all the time but we are not always careful in delineating what "great" means or sure how we measure greatness. Mark 10:35-45 is about this measuring of greatness.

The answer which Jesus gives is wrapped up in the familiar story about James and John, the two disciples who asked Jesus for special seats in the messianic Kingdom which they thought was about to appear. They said, "Lord, let one of us sit at your right hand and one at the left." It is fortunate that the Gospels show us the disciples not at all unlike any of us. The gist of this story about James and John is not that they were ambitious — no, the tragedy is in the misdirection of their ambition. They did not understand how to measure greatness so they had a concept that earned them this place of notoriety in the history of Christianity.

In a book entitled "Ride The Wild Horses", Wallace Hamilton includes a sermon on the subject of "Drum Major Instincts" in which he says we all have it, the human desire to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction and to be out in front leading the parade — the wish to be great. We express the instinct in all of life — and it is not wrong to have the instinct, which is God-given. What is wrong is to misdirect the ambition and to not channel it toward true greatness. That is what James and John failed to do, and that is the point which Jesus makes in the remainder of these 10 verses.

The other disciples either heard or heard of the request of James and John and of course were very indignant. But don't let that kind of false-indignity fool you — in them or your peers. They were not indignant because of the end-run of James and John, nor because they were so righteous — but because they had been out-maneuvered, and that is what was upsetting.

The other ten disciples also wanted the best seats in the Kingdom of God and they resented the fact that they had not been quick-witted enough to-ask first. Their response was far more jealousy than righteous indignation, so the controversy about who was to be "great" and who "greater" raged on.

Jesus set the principle for true greatness. The principle was and is clear: whoever would be great among you must be servant. And we play all sorts of games with that. We try to make it very complex; in order to confuse and confound it, I suspect. We work on the theory that "if I don't understand it, then I don't have to worry about it" Perhaps it is so direct and so simple we can not take it — but there it is. The way of Jesus says that you measure true greatness by how much service you can and will give. True greatness comes in choosing self-less service over self-ish.

Ours is a time for greatness, true greatness. God has brought us — you and me — to this time and place and we must choose today/whether we will ask God for some special favor — like where we might sit in the kingdom — or, ask God to show us how and where we might serve as a servant people following Jesus who came not to be served but to serve and who calls us to follow him.

Life's most significant graduation day, and one which we must not fail to achieve, is the day we move our center of interest from asking how we can be served to discovering how we can serve. Only when we cross that great divide do we touch life in its highest glory and its deepest joys.

***

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have a paradise in a few years.
—Bertrand Russell

***

Beakman's World show featured in Louisville

Beakman brings the zany science of his children's television show, "Beakman's World", to the Louisville Science Center on Friday, July 19 for three shows of "Beakman Live!"

"Beakman Live!" is a live stage spectacle featuring science demonstrations, with plenty of audience participation and trademark Beakman humor. Shows will be at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for Science Center members and $12 for non-members.

In "Beakman Live!", Paul Zaloom, the eccentric "Beakman," dazzles and amazes his fellow humans with a series of death defying and belief suspending demonstrations of intriguing scientific principles. These include Beakman lying on a bed of needle sharp nails, making a flying bat materialize in thin air, and breaking the sound barrier. In addition, Beakman demonstrates sublimation, the center of gravity, conservation of energy, and optical illusions.

Since 1992, Paul Zaloom has appeared on the Emmy winning educational TV show as a humorous and inquisitive scientist who answers viewers' questions about science, nature and the world. Zaloom is also an award-winning puppeteer, performance artist and political satirist who has created 10 solo shows, including "Frank of Zaloom" and the current "Velvetville". He has performed on nine tours to Europe and across the U.S.

"Beakman's World™ on Tour", the hands-on exhibit version of "Beakman's World™", will be on display at the Science Center June 15 through September 15 and is free with paid admission.

Science Center hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. Call (502) 561-6100 to reserve "Beakman Live!" tickets today. For more information, visit www.LouisvilleScience.org.

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