

Bluegrass Beacon

Against school choice

Call me naive. When I started promoting "school choice" — emancipating parents from their school children attend with at least some public money to follow — I knew critics would engage in debate based on facts and sound reasoning. I am right about school choice. I am wrong about that debate.

Don't misunderstand. Credible opponents of school choice exist. They honestly believe that allowing parents to choose schools best for their children can harm public education, even though the evidence suggests otherwise. These opponents don't just try to protect some hackneyed agenda, teacher unions or deteriorating education system. But the opposition includes so many visceral anarchists — primarily bureaucrats and anti-choice politicians — who for myriad ideological reasons have become entrenched against changing a public-education system that props up ineffectual schools and beats down long-oppressed taxpayers.

An example: Colorado Rep. Mike Merrifield, recently chairman of that state legislature's education committee until he e-mailed a state senator that "there should be a special place in hell for school-choice supporters." School-choice supporters in Colorado have long known Merrifield subtly hindered every effort to bring school choice to the commonsense. That himself any longer usually chooses to argue with the success of Colorado's charter schools, Merrifield resorts to a more spirited attack.

"There must be a special place in hell for these Privatizers, Charterizers and Voucherizers," he wrote. "They deserve it." They are \$2,000 Colorado children who attended

Opinion Board's Broadcast

I am not exactly sure who does and does not read The Mercury.

Obviously, we want as many people to read the paper as possible, but there are those who choose not to read. Let all and there's really nothing that can be done about that, try as we may.

However, it is important for me to say now that I do not use the pages of this newspaper to constantly hound individuals in some times-just-as-beneficial to the newspaper's readership to point out what is good and what is right.

It's much easier to be some covert, negative bleed-in type of publication, but that's not my mission nor is I can tell the mission of this newspaper.

Are there hot topics? Sure! More than that not having two sides to an argument makes that particular topic quite important to many people who want to see Carlisle move forward.

Most often this is done with a unified effort. I was also seated near people who throughout the presentation continuously made negative comments about those attending the meeting, the general state of the community and the lack of leadership.

As the time progressed this news and other messages to help keep the general public informed. To publicize our own mission is fine, but I'd much rather have those unhappy with the paper speak my face to face and explain what it is they want to see.

Ben's Broadcast

ering since Tuesday is our final production day and the paper has to be prepared for press.

I sat and listened as Mike Mangrove gave the presentation and survey results. He is a highly skilled evaluator and always does a good job.

The survey's results weren't particularly surprising to point out what is good and what is right.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't find fault! I am going to do that really well here in just a few more lines.

When sitting in church attending this meeting, last Tuesday, April 10, I was surprised to find that some of the people who wanted to see Carlisle move forward.

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suggestions from the floor, and all of the pieces of the assessment, we will make every effort to properly present the findings, with good and bad, in the paper.

Since the conclusion of this preliminary meeting I have had several phone calls concerning this very individual and consistently from the people making the efforts to have things happen here.

This conversation also included the newspaper and its lack of critical and negative reporting. He even asked if someone could start one here that would present the critical side to issues.

As it stated earlier I know there are some who do not read The Mercury. Hey, that's really okay, but even those people should not claim they don't know things who mention in the paper for two or three weeks.

If they don't read the paper, then whose job is it to inform them? We can help them make sure their calendars are adequately filled out.

It doesn't matter who publishes the paper. It is published in this community and in every community. It is a conduit of information, news and other messages to help keep the general public informed.

When the paper speaks my face to face and explain what it is they want to see. And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

ally happen, and what they really want in the newspaper.

It has never been the mission of papers have encountered in Carlisle, be it The Mercury, the Nicholas County, none of them, to pick apart and be negative in an attempt to move the community forward.

I had a great friend make a statement to me once and I have always appreciated and tried never to abuse and here it is: You should never mix with someone who buys ink by the barrel.

That's a pretty good posture. If you find that you're being tried to abuse the power of the press, but at the same time boasting the paper down publicly can certainly cause a change of heart.

Everyone should have an opinion. It's good, critical evaluation to take all of the things which the community and then form an opinion.

But to do door-to-door, public place to public place and inform of critical or nearby events — the dictionary definition of journalism — to do something that probably come the closest are: Exemption from external control, interference, regulation, etc. or the power to determine action without restraint.

But this isn't exactly what we mean when we talk about freedom, is it? How much "freedom" would we exercise if there were no laws? To imagine someone exercising their "freedom" by coming into your yard, uninvited and carrying off your property. No, for our own protection I am sure we all want to have some external control, interference and regulation.

In other words, to be a member of any society, we have to sacrifice a certain amount of our individual freedom. We draw a line for acting "without restraint" at the point where it threatens someone else's safety, or their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

We even allow reasonable limits to be placed on the constitutional right of freedom of religion. The first amendment states "Congress shall make laws...abridging the free exercise of speech." In spite of this guaranteed freedom, we can still be sued for libel or slander. I pulled in my speed limit. I could just be late to bring over my mail, but when I sat down at my desk for seven minutes later... I was caught by the nice officer.

Until next week, make it a great one!

Fourth District Report

Serving the 4th District

Congress was out of session for the past two weeks, and it gave me an opportunity to travel the 4th District.

One of the highlights of last week was visiting with constituents at Great Country High School, Straub Elementary School, Simons Middle School, and Carter High School. I also met with officials from Williamstown Schools, Eminence Schools and Mason County Schools.

I very much enjoyed spending time with these students and their teachers. As a father of six, I am committed to working with our education leaders to make sure we're doing all we can in Congress to make their

job easier and to ensure our kids get a world-class education. I am committed to working with our education leaders to make sure we're doing all we can in Congress to make their

forums for elected officials in different locations around the district. It is important that we connect with local decision makers and coordinate our efforts to improve the quality of life for our shared constituents. These informal gatherings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss their priorities for their communities. The more we can coordinate federal, state, and local efforts, the better.

Since taking office in 2005, I have worked hard to increase the amount of federal grant funds that are awarded in the 4th District. As part of this ongoing effort, I recently launched our new Grants Information Section on my website, available by visiting <http://gedfx.us>.

like us, we want to raise money to help keep up the eggs, as well as providing for an occasional barbecue, we can do that. That freedom has been taken away.

And you know, it's not relevant to disagree with the happier Cindy will be. It's about someone else trying to help me how to live my life, trying to limit my choices — my freedom. And let me tell you, I don't like it... not one little bit.

We are all entitled to the freedom to disagree: the freedom to disagree is a wonderful thing. But the next time we are tempted to impose our opinion on others — to limit their freedom of choice — I hope we will remember the following words of wisdom: "Those who deny freedom to others deny it from themselves." Abraham Lincoln

Steve's Report

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What exactly is freedom? I mean when we talk about freedom, is it? How much "freedom" would we exercise if there were no laws? To imagine someone exercising their "freedom" by coming into your yard, uninvited and carrying off your property. No, for our own protection I am sure we all want to have some external control, interference and regulation.

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thousands of constituents and conference them into a town hall-type forum that was conducted via telephone. It was a great opportunity to stay on top of all that is happening in Washington, D.C. and across the 4th District by visiting <http://gedfx.us>.

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Veloz Viewpoints

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a great week.

Well, I'm back at work now. It was an adventure Monday morning when I showed back Jack Pattie. I think not for school choice. I think that would destroy the system. Sunday night I spent a lot of time getting everything ready for the day I was truly dreading.

It wasn't long after I fell asleep that Ben was bringing the babies back to me to feed them. It was 11:45, so it wasn't too bad. I fed them and Ben changed and burped them. They feed asleep quickly and so did I.

The next feeding came around 2:30. That feeding is always the hardest on me. It is hard for me to wake up

Talkin' From The Mountains

How To Find The Way To A Movie Star Relative's Home

I just received word that my good friend C.V. Foley, died recently. C.V. used to be Country Music Boy of Fame member, Red Foley who helped start Benji Valley Barn Dance.

C.V.'s cousin and Red's daughter, Shirley Foley, married Pat Boone who became a rock 'n' roll sensation in the 50s and went on to Hollywood to become a movie star. You might remember him from the movie "April Love" with Shirley Jones.

Pat Boone was already a movie star when C.V. and I started college at Morehead State in the early 60s. We were sitting around in the college grill one day and C.V. told us that Pat and Shirley, who were now living in Hol-

Talkin' From The Mountains

inside. C.V. had a big heart and a kind demeanor. He will be missed by all his friends, and his family.

An interesting aside: Later, C.V. became relations with the Clooney family when C.V.'s second cousin Debbie Rose, who was a recording star (You Light Up My Life) married Rosemary Clooney's daughter. You want to know what the connection was? The marriage proved that Kentuckians would find freedom in Hollywood.

By the way, Nick Clooney is getting an honorary degree from the University of Kentucky. He is one of the most outstanding individuals I've had the pleasure of knowing.

When the tour guide pointed out the home of Pat Boone, C.V. got off and went

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Steve Scalp is a member of the U.S. Military. Reach him at scalp@msm.com.

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