

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Who you gonna' call (Myth-busters)

It turns out the longstanding belief that women talk more than men simply isn't true.

The Journal Science recently published results of a thorough study revealing women use 16,215 words a day, only a statistically insignificant 546 more than men.

Yet for years, the minority that women talk more than men was accepted as undeniable truth. Most people probably just assumed it was a scientifically supported theorem.

After all, everyone would know such a statement if it was just a myth, would they? My wife already knew



that the "women-talking-more-than-men" hypothesis didn't hold water, her proof being monthly cell-phone bills indicating my minutes used versus hers.

Still, it falls to us to - in the current parlance of myth-busting - to undo a couple thousand years of myth-making.

Myth: More money automatically results in a better education for Kentucky students.

Those who believe this remind me of folks in ancient times who adamantly insisted that the earth is flat.

But give the ancients aIFICATE, she commented that she had never seen an entire family so good at number puzzles.

The librarian gave us a brief rundown of the rules, explaining, "Make sure you check your answers before you turn in your paper."

She explained that in the previous day's competition, the first place player had finished in 20 minutes, and some had taken nearly the entire hour allotted for the competition.

With the instructions complete, she passed out the puzzles and told us to begin. Six minutes later, I handed her back the completed puzzle.

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break. They didn't have to re-search validity to help determine the validity of their beliefs.

We, on the other hand, have the Kentucky Department of Education.

According to the KDE, per pupil revenues received by Kentucky schools - adjusted for inflation - are 69 percent higher (248 percent over-inflation adjustment) today than in 1960.

However, the Office of Educational Accountability reports the composite score on Kentucky's ACT college-entrance test improved only 3 percent across the state's public-school districts during these same 16 years.

Got that? 69 percent more revenue, but only a 3-percent improvement on the ACT.

I resent it when politicians try to win elections and extract a scheme to squeeze more money from the legislature - by claiming that Kentucky taxpayers are cheapskates when it comes to supporting education.

We're told the state doesn't spend enough on education.

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yet 49 percent of our entire state budget is spent on the K-12 system.

How much is enough? If more money automatically means a better education for students, how is it that schools spending piles of hard-earned tax dollars are turning in some of the worst academic performance in the state (see video)?

Jefferson County's Portland Elementary School averaged well below the state average on its overall CATS Index Score in 2004 - yet spent a whopping \$130,340 per pupil, nearly twice the state average of \$65,268.

On the other hand, Carlisle County Elementary School averaged well above the state average on its overall CATS Index Score in 2004 - yet spent a whopping \$3,080 per pupil, only 5 percent of the state average.

However, Royce Jefferson County teachers union spouted on KET's "Kentucky Tonight" show that these schools "are not capable of taking care of these

students."

But the telling point here is that Whitman and her cohort, Francis Steenbergen, generalism of the state teachers union, espouse even the part of the bill that would require granting parental requests for a transfer to another public school.

"I believe we are effectively dealing with special-needs students," Steenbergen said.

Yes, and at one time, lots of people - really smart ones - believed the earth was flat. But that didn't make it so, did it?

"It doesn't have any more trash than an ordinary house," Morford pointed out during her discussion with Mayor Clark. "I think it should be billed as a house."

"Is there anyone in favor of lowering it?" Clark asked council members who became silent for several seconds before Councilman Tommy Crawford said "I'd like to think about it."

"Well, I'm not for lowering it," Clark said. "And unless five people pass over my head, it won't happen."

Adopted budget amendment for the 2006/2007 budget.

Passed a memorandum of understanding with the Dept. of Local Government in support of a grant to provide Carlisle Police Officers with handguns and ammunition at no expense to the department.

Passed a resolution for Municipal Road #14 funds totaling \$103,750. According to Clark the funds will be used to backstop Cliffway Drive and Catherine Street.

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