

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Sticking it to Kentucky's private school student-athletes

Lawmakers shut down a proposal Tuesday requiring students who transfer from public to private schools to sit out of sports for a year.

This story is more than about sports and kids. It illustrates well the evils associated with people trying to use government to do their competing for them.

Public-school officials sweat it's just about "leveling the playing field."

Not really. It's more about sticking it to private schools.

I wouldn't know that for sure except for multitudes of unfounded rumors that parochial schools cheat to recruit athletes.

Such rumors invariably implicate rich folks' "privileges" at Kentucky's prestigious Catholic high schools, not just so much at public schools that also happen to have enviable athletic facilities as well as academic programs.

Supporters of parental choice school choice programs, particularly when the bureaucracy trumps up some bogus research indicating school choice doesn't work while ignoring the mediocre performance of its own public school system.

But I don't get mad about all this. Instead, I refer to state statisticians crazy by an-



Jim Waters

really about. They know the seven deadly sins - in this case, envy, pride, greed and sloth - when they see them.

Parents of children competing in classrooms and on athletic fields of our state's private schools are the only people with the credibility to name one product or service - including education - for which they call for both KIPSA taxes that support public schools that support them, not attend, plus their private-school tuition.

Sen. Tim Shaughnessy, D-Louisville, told an Associated Press reporter a couple of years ago, when this issue raised its ugly head in a previous encounter:

The KIPSA's response to strong competition is not harder work, it's changing the rules. If the superintendent or school board would bring the same issue would bring the same into a district from another locale during the summer before the student's freshman year.

What a great lesson the KIPSA offers students! When things get tough on the playing field, waiine, exaggerate and find a way to lower the standards.

The problem is, that's not the way it works in real life. KIPSA officials and their lackeys gripe that private schools have an edge because they recruit students in a broader area and offer them financial aid. But they exaggerate by not also pointing out that there has

not been a flood of illegal incidents and that this is really about their jealousy over the wins piled higher than goal posts at Lexington Catholic High.

Instead of forcing students to pay the price for the competitive nature of private schools, why not really level the playing field by letting

public schools engage in the same sort of recruitment of students?

That idea is anathema to most public-school administrators obsessed with how they look on the field.

Just imagine how they'd be willing to cover up for poor student achievement if they were forced to compete

off the field, too.

- Jim Waters is the director of policy and communications for the Bluegrass Institute, Kentucky's free-market think tank. You can reach him at jwaters@bips.org. You can read previous columns published at www.bips.org.

Lend A Helping Hand

Hospice of the Bluegrass is offering Volunteer Training Friday, September 14 9 AM - 3 PM Nicholas County Health Dept.

of the Bluegrass Hospice Cynthia

3 DAY SALE Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Aug. 24, 25, 26

Advertisement for 3 Day Sale featuring various food items like Chicken Livers, Russet Potatoes, Heinz Ketchup, Van Camp Beans, Pepsi, Dixie Crystal Sugar, Kraft American Cheese Singles, A-1 Steak Sauce, Lays Potato Chips, Deli Carolina Turkey Breast, Match Light Charcoal, and Dasani Water.

GENERAL NEWS

ROBINSON

Continued from Page 1 ipation in the illegal transaction, according to testimony.

Two days later, during a similar chain of events, Doan was wearing a wire when he followed Robinson to a Carlisle address where Robinson allegedly purchased almost a dozen grams of cocaine for Doan.

Doan testified that he had been at this same house and knew the resident, who was and was not identified by name during the trial. Doan said drugs had been purchased there before.

"The individual was never charged was he?" Wittmeyer asked Kirkland during her cross-examination of his testimony.

"That is correct," he answered. During Doan's testimony many of the jurors leaned forward from their seats, begging to hear his soft voice as he frequently trailed off into incoherent mumbling. Doan was restrained in ankle manacles having been transported to the Bourbon County Jail where, according to jail personnel, Doan remains incarcerated following an Aug. 6 arrest by Bourbon County Sheriff Jeff Ashbury.

Ashbury charged Doan with DUI, possession of a controlled substance in a suspended license, no brake lights, disorderly conduct, using an alcohol test, no registration plates and no insurance.

White testified Doan nervously bounced one leg up and down. He wiped his face often with his hands, and covered his eyes and turned his head away from jurors while grinning at the questions asked of him.

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"I got help on paying fines and stuff like that," Doan described himself, as someone who suffers from schizophrenia, is bipolar, and alcoholic.

Judge McGinnis asked him several times to speak clearly into the microphone but he repeatedly during testimony, was also never charged with any other drug transaction.

According to the testimony, Doan was additionally paid a total of \$270 for his cooperation and helping during the investigation.

"I pocketed some money. Maybe they were a little pudgy or wore thick glasses. Maybe they were short, or they were very good at some subjects in school. Many of these unpopular ones found at 2772 1/2th Street, Louisville.

Harry Potter series includes video character that do evil things. If your young readers tend to root for the bad guys and kind of like it when they do evil things, then I think you should probably steer them towards a different kind of book.

Whatever your choice, I wish you "Good Reading!"

Signing out from Honolulu Steve Scalf

**Steve Scalf is a member of the U.S. Military. Reach him at scalf@msn.com.

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and bought drugs with some," Doan said with a smirk when asked by Wittmeyer what he did with that money.

More than one juror looked to fellow jurors with creased brows and expressions of confusion as it became apparent that Robinson had not professed in any way from the transactions, and no charges had been brought against him.

Two local residents who had allegedly sold drugs to Robinson for Doan.

"You've bought drugs three many times," Wittmeyer asked Doan at one point and then asked point blank if he had ever bought drugs from the Walnut Grove individual, where the morphine pills had been purchased on July 24, 2006.

"Yes," Doan answered. Wittmeyer was emphatic during her closing argument.

He's charged with selling drugs," she said to the jury while pointing to Robinson.

"He got \$15 in gas. That's what he got. I'm asking you to find him not guilty of selling drugs."

Wright clarified the charges during his closing argument.

"A person does not have to profit from the sale of drugs to be guilty of selling drugs," he said. "To be guilty of selling drugs all you have to

appropriate for every reader. As with every book that deals with the struggle between good and evil, the Harry Potter series includes video character that do evil things. If your young readers tend to root for the bad guys and kind of like it when they do evil things, then I think you should probably steer them towards a different kind of book.

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**Steve Scalf is a member of the U.S. Military. Reach him at scalf@msn.com.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Finch of Carlisle, announced the birth of a son, Earl Finch Jr.

Three big motion pictures are playing Saturday night at the bourbon Drive-In Theatre: "Five Guns West" starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, "Meet The Killer" starring Brian Koppelman and "Blastin' Drums" starring Gary Cooper and showing in Technicolor.

Whole flyers are only 39 cents a pound at Neal's Square Deal Grocery where Ma saves Pa's dough.

Carlisle McDonald and two sisters, Linda Faulconer and Joredda Garrett.

No services are planned. Memorial contributions are suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mathers-Gauntz Funeral Home.

Guestbook is available at www.mathersgauntz.com.

6659 Maysonville Rd. \$230,000

106.5 Wind Ridge Rd. \$95,500

127 Juniper St. \$72,500

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Advertisement for 3rd Annual Mandolin Farm Bluegrass Festival.

Advertisement for Gotta Go! Real Estate featuring various property listings and contact information.