OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Needed: More statesmanship, less showmanship

Bluegrass Beacon

By Jim Waters

Where have all the statesmen gone? Not to Frankfort — a fact made painfully obvious by shenanigans occurring in the Capitol these days.

Mischief abounds on both sides of the political aisle.

But I'm with Speaker Jody Richards on his decision to adjourn the House in lieu of Gov. Fletcher continuing a special legislative session.

Can you blame Richards? Why participate in a big taxpayer-financed campaign rally for the opposing party's governor?

But this newfound backbone doesn't make Richards a real statesman. He's just a savvy politician who happens to get it right on this issue.

Richards says the governor cannot justify the "urgent" need for the session. He's right.

Not a shred of evidence exists that this session needed to go forward to attract alternative-fuel companies to Kentucky. They made no promises to come – even with incentives approved during a special session.

Richards also says no consensus exists on the agenda, which could result in a drawn-out session. He's right.

Let's face it. The governor just wants to make the other side look bad – on the taxpayer's dime. Richards said taxpayers shouldn't pay $60,000 a day for political posturing in Frankfort by this clumsy administration. He's right.

Now, if Richards just packed some credibility. His past behavior indicates he knows a little about politically posturing – even if he took the right stance on this trip down the catwalk.

Since Kentucky voters approved annual sessions in 2000, governors have now called five. You didn't hear Richards expressing concern about those. Why? Because he thought they would benefit him and his party.

But now that a special session might benefit the other side, he finds some vertebrae and opposes it. You can call it partisanship or gamesmanship – but not statesmanship.

I fear too many Kentuckians just surrender to the idea of that Frankfort serves as a perpetual political playground. I hear far too many people sigh and say: "That's just the way it's always been in Kentucky politics."

That needs to change.

And so I return to Henry Clay, who represented Kentucky in and dominated the U.S. Senate during the mid-19th century. Clay became known as "The Great Compromiser." He defended deeply held principles but he set aside personal interests to bring people with very different points to consensus. Clay kept them at the table until: (a) all points of view were sufficiently heard; and (b) participants reached agreement.

So, how would Clay clean up the playground in Frankfort?

He might suggest to Fletcher: "Governor, if, in fact, you really believe this session is necessary to bring alternative-fuel companies and jobs to Kentucky and not just about your re-election, prove it by giving up your claim to pummel taxpayers with an additional 60-plus additional spending projects you added to the special session's agenda."

To Richards, he could say: "You may be right in principle. But considering your past support of special sessions, it rather appears like sour grapes on your part. Why don't you come back to Frankfort and wrap this up in a couple of days? If these companies don't choose Kentucky, taxpayers haven't lost a dime and you have plenty of political ammunition."

Then he would tell both sides: "When voters approved annual sessions in 2000, lawmakers promised an end to these special 'debacles.' You must keep that promise."

Clay became the first person ever to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol following his death in 1857. But it wasn't because he was perfect. At one time, he owned 60 slaves.

Nevertheless, he always placed the good of the country above his interests. His headstone states: "I know no North-no South-no East-no West."

In Frankfort, what statesmen will make the good of the commonwealth – and not just the next election – the paramount object of their public service?

I believe Kentuckians hunger for a display of that kind of leadership in the next election – and in the next and the next and th... next . . .

– 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@bipps.org. You can read previously published columns at www.bipps.org.

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Steve's Report

Steve's Report

By Steve Scalf

When our neighbors were getting ready to leave Hawaii, they invited a bunch of their friends to join them for dinner at a restaurant. That meant there were quite a few people present that Cindy and I had never met before, including the couple that sat directly across from us. I like getting to know new people and enjoy that kind of element, but Cindy didn't feel quite as comfortable. After all, the lady seated across from us was from the Ukraine. How much in common could they have?

After a few minutes, I learned that another gentleman at our table shared my interest in family history. Before long, we were having a great time swapping stories about our experiences. I was having so much fun that it took longer than it should have for me to remember my manners – I hadn't been including Cindy in my conversation. As soon as there was polite break in conversation, I turned my attention back to her.

Much to my pleasant surprise, instead of sitting there in awkward silence Cindy was engaged in a lively conversation with the Ukrainian woman. Curious, I listened in as Cindy said:

"...Not only do I get irritated more easily, it's like I can't keep it to myself. Before I realize what I am doing, I hear myself snap at people. I never used to be like that."

The other woman nodded vigorously and replied in a heavy Russian accent:

"Yes! I sometimes feel same way myself! Things that not bother me before, I feel I must say now or I explode! It is like I have tiger inside me that want come out and I cannot stop!"

It seems the two women had something in common, after all. Cultural and international boundaries disappeared as they spoke the universal language of Menopause. It made for a very enjoyable evening, listening to the two of them laughing and taking turns telling on themselves for all the times their hormones had gotten the better of them.

The Ukrainian woman shared a story about her friend in Russia:

"She cleans house for living. One day she call and say how she can't stand that stupid cat in the house she clean. She was wanting to never go back again and was thinking about quitting job. But I know what REAL problem was. I tell her about little pills the doctor give me for my hormones and say she must go and get some, also.

"Two weeks later, she call back and say she is still working job and is very hap-

See STEVE'S Page 7

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The Staff of Mortenson Family Dental's Carlisle Office (L to R): Tom Vivian, Becky Davis, Dr. Roy Foster, Mary Boggs, Rhonda Sibert and Kayte Land. Not pictured is Dr. Garry Meeks.

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- Brush after every meal or at least twice a day
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OPINION

BOND'S

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Mimi and Papaw can spoil at will.

Sadie has been the best baby of the eight I have been around. This includes my four children and the four grandchildren. This certainly can change but for now she holds the record.

This may very likely be because her mother Beth was as good a baby as we had.

I like this role of papaw. I can show up, cause trouble, give out money and hugs, and then just as quickly go home.

I feel blessed to have the family I have. There is no but or although or however attached to that statement.

I hope everyone feels the same about their families – I see so many out there that share no beacon of light whatsoever.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

GUEST

Continued from Page 4

it has grown far beyond its capacity, putting taxpayers under great strain. In order to keep costs down, Medicaid underpays physicians, who have increasingly stopped accepting Medicaid beneficiaries as a result. Government restrictions also make it challenging to get prescription drugs for Medicaid patients.

Mr. Moore's remedies fail as heath-care reform and don't even amount to effective propaganda. His film should have featured a Canadian on a waiting list for treatment. He should have gone undercover to experience the real system that serves most Cubans. He should have followed a Medicaid patient's struggle to get health care from the U.S. government.

But that would have entailed filming an actual documentary, as opposed to a fluffy work of fiction.

Diana Ernst is a public policy fellow in Health Care Studies at the Pacific Research Institute. Email: dernst@pacificresearch.org

TALKIN

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the crazies--with or without guns."

George W. Bush: "I think we ought to raise the age at which juveniles can have a gun." -- Oct. 18, 2000

--- The Environment:

Theodore Roosevelt: "To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed."--December 1907

George W. Bush: "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully." -- Saginaw, Mich., Sept. 29, 2000

--- Crime:

Ronald Reagan: "You have every right to be concerned. We live in the midst of a crime epidemic."

George W. Bush: "For every fatal shooting, there were roughly three non-fatal shootings. And, folks, this is unacceptable in America." May 14, 2001

--- Health Care:

William Jefferson Clinton: "If we could agree on what the problems were, then you just take one element of it at a time and hammer it out. I think we may have a chance on health care." -- "Talk of the Nation/Science," NPR.

George W. Bush: "Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this country." -- Poplar Bluff, Mo., Sept. 6, 2004

-- Uniting The Nation:

William Jefferson Clinton: "Great rewards will come to those who can live together, learn together, work together, forge new ties that bind together."

George W. Bush: "It was not always a given that the United States and America would have a close relationship." Washington, D.C., June 29, 2006

Are you laughing, or are you shaking your head in dismay?

Dale Greer is a member of the faculty at Morehead State University. He has an expansive background in media including award winning reporting and stints as a major television anchor. He can be reached via email at, ddgreer@roadrunner.net

STEVE'S

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py now. She say now those people have BEAUTIFUL cat! Because of this, we call them my cat pills."

Yes, it was all happiness and laughter as they shared their memories. But my recollections of the same events didn't always make me feel the same way. More often than I care to admit, I would hear Cindy in the kitchen closing the cabinets and drawers a little harder than necessary and realize that I was once again in the doghouse. Those stories don't seem quite so funny when you're on the receiving end.

In Cindy's defense, she never got upset with me without a reason. Of course, the reason might be because the grocery store had moved the toilet paper to a different aisle. It didn't matter that I don't have anything to do with how they stock the shelves at the store. I was there, and she was going to give me a piece of her mind.

The good news is that she seem to have weathered the worst of that storm. After a few trips to the doctor and something to help regulate her hormones, Cindy is much happier these days. And that means I am doing quite a bit better myself, as well.

The bad news is that Cindy isn't the only member of the family dealing with mood swings. With all four kids between the age of 13 and 20, life in the Scalf home can be like walking through a minefield. You never know which one (or two) is going to wake up grouchy, and what's going to set them off.

When Sam was about 13, we took him to the clinic for a physical so he could participate in Scouting. At the end of the check-up, the doctor took Sam aside and said,

"You know those times when you get frustrated because nobody can understand what you're going through?" Sam perked right up and got really interested as the doctor continued, "Sometimes it's like you're dealing with a bunch of knuckleheads, right? It's like they're going out of their way to get on your nerves and you just want to shout or punch something." Sam just sat there amazed, nodding. Finally, somebody understood what he was feeling!

Then the doctor put a hand on his shoulder and said softly but firmly, "Now, I want you to listen very carefully, because I'm going to tell you something that I always want you to remember: It's not THEM, it's YOU!" The doctor then explained to Sam about the hormones that were surging through his body, making all kinds of wonderful changes, but unfortunately also making him feel frustrated, irritable, restless, and on edge.

It's not like we hadn't tried to explain these same thing to him before. But for some reason, when it came from a doctor, it was easier for him to accept. And once he understood what was going on inside his body, it somehow made it easier for him to deal with it. After that, every time one of the kids started acting irritated, Cindy would put her hand on her shoulder and make it "talk" like a puppet. She'd say, "It's those hormones talking to you again." Normally, that's all it would take to restore the peace.

They say that the dog is man's best friend. I don't want to disagree with aged wisdom, but I'm telling you – when you're dealing with a house full of raging hormones – my vote goes to the doctor, every time.

Signing out from Honolulu
Steve Scalf

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

HEAVEN

Continued from Page 5

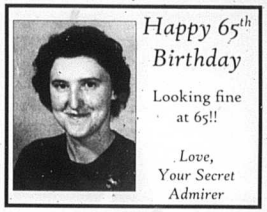
be taken and the one left,' but such are the vicissitudes of war."

History tells us that there were 3,150 casualties at Jonesboro with 2,000 of them being Confederates.

History tells us that Lt. Lot Young died April 3, 1926, and was buried in Carlisle.

I have not yet found his grave, but will continue to search for it in order to place a few flowers there, and have a kind and respectful thought for the man who rests there eternally in his native soil.

He was an officer of the Kentucky Orphan Brigade, who fought during the American Civil War, and unlike the vast majority of his companions, he miraculously lived to tell about it.



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Nov. 3-4	Fall Grand Ole Opry Tour (G-2): From Carlisle, Owingsville, Mt. Sterling, Winchester and Lexington.
Nov. 10-11	Fall Grand Ole Opry Tour (G-3): From Campton, Jackson, Hazard, Thousandsticks, Manchester and London.
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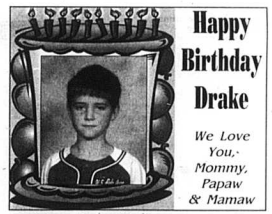
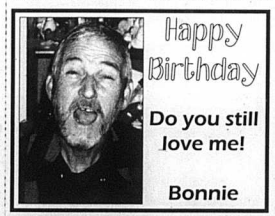


Happy Birthday Drake

We Love You, Mommy, Papaw & Mamaw

Rosemary had a birthday on July 17th and still likes Chevys, what do you think So Happy Birthday from Gary Clyde Park one Chevy and give the '56 a ride.

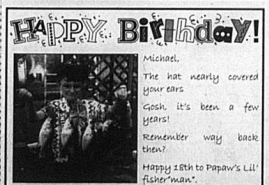
Love, Gary and all your family



Happy Birthday

Do you still love me!

Bonnie



HAPPY Birthday!

Michael,

The hat nearly covered your ears.

Gosh, it's been a few years!

Remember way back then?

Happy 18th to Papaw's Lil' fisher'man'.

We love you, Mom, Papaw, Joyce, Brandon & Kaitlyn

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