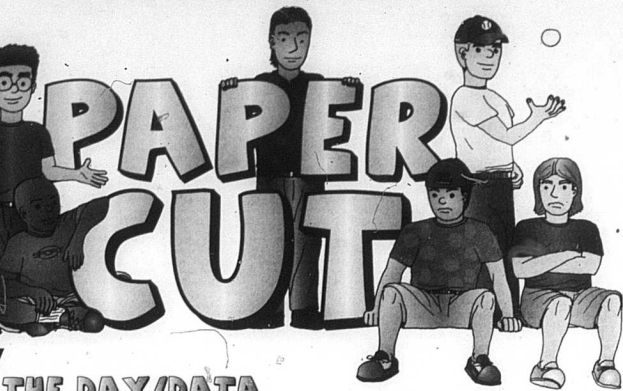


NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



CHAPTER 7 SAVING THE DAY/DATA

By Bob House Illustrations by Ryan Lutz

The story so far: After starting his own newspaper, Marky Meadows tries to solve a crime spree and avoid a bully's threat.

"I don't think the police have any leads," Lily Meadows said as they drove into Crossville for another baseball game. "Will insurance pay for our things, Paul?"

"We won't get enough to replace everything with something new," he answered, bargaining for a parking place. "Maybe we can find a new parking lot."

As Mr. Meadows parked near the Crossville baseball field, Marky spotted the Enter-Net, the electronics store Paul had bought about.

"Dad, may I look around in there before the game starts?" Marky asked.

Paul Meadows eyed the store. "OK, see what their prices are like," he said. "Hey, Marky, the Enter-Net. Marky thought the store looked strangely familiar.

"May I help you?" asked a raspy voiced lady. "Yes, I'm looking for a computer," Marky said.

The woman pointed to dozens of desktop computers. "All of our computers are guaranteed for 15 days," she said.

As Marky looked closely at one computer, he spotted a faint mark on the "M" key and remembered the paper cut. That's a fingerprint in blood, he thought. "Mmm."

"Thanks for your help," Marky said. "I've got to get moving."

At the ballpark, the Skiprock City fans had plenty to cheer about, as Jared Meadows hit three home runs. Marky, though, remained quiet - "thinking," he said.

"Who thinks at a baseball game?" Paul Meadows asked his wife.

As the Meadows returned to Skiprock City, Marky again asked to be left off at The Webb Site. "Oh, no," his mom said. "Not after you sent the police to that man's house."

"But Mom, he stole our computer!" Marky's dad pulled sharply into a parking space on Main Street. "Son," he said angrily. "Your reporter act has gotten out of hand. That man is going to sue us for harassment."

"But he's the Techno Thief, Dad," Marky replied. "I can prove it. We can sue on the store together."

Marky Meadows' voice was calmer. "And if you're wrong, you'll give us the newspaper?"

Marky looked his dad in the eye. "I'm wrong, yes."

When the family entered the Webb Site, Mrs. Meadows spotted the Enter-Net, which was carrying a power strip.

"We're sorry to bother you, but I hope you can help us settle a misunderstanding."

Nobody spoke for a second, then Iggy Webb put his left hand on the doorknob of the storeroom door. "Quick thinking, boy," he sneered.

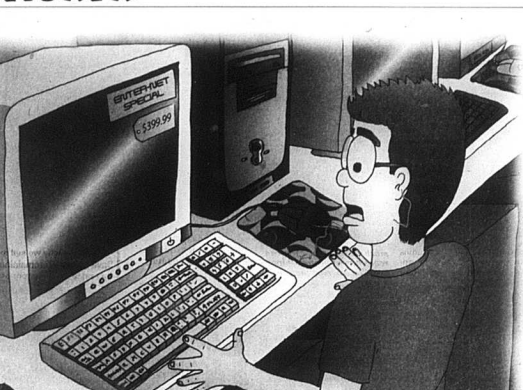
"But my car is parked right out the back. Too bad you're not quick enough to catch."

"Young man -," his dad began. "Thank!"

At first, nobody knew what hit him. Iggy Webb's eyes crossed as he slumped to the floor. A baseball rolled slowly toward his feet.

"Fresh arm," Jared said from the end of the aisle where he had beaned Webb. "I didn't pitch today."

By the time Sgt. Warren arrived and took the crook away, Marky had interviewed Carla, his mom, and Jared for the news story. Joe D. Lubbers walked by, and



"Dad, the stores look alike. And I saw our computer in Crossville," Marky said, still looking at Webb, who slowly edged sideways. "It had my bloody fingerprint on it."

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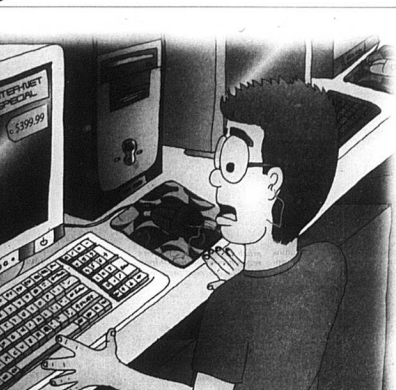
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GENERAL NEWS

BEACON

Continued from Page 4

card hasn't exactly been one of fiscal frugality? For instance, last January, Carroll supported a bill to increase the level of retired teachers' health-care benefits to the same level as that of active teachers. Those folks already receive top-notch benefits paid for almost entirely by taxpayers. Yet, many of those taxpayers cannot afford to increase their families' health care. Meanwhile, a brutal storm swirls around the nearly \$17 billion funding shortfall in the state's retirement systems. Yet Carroll wants to increase the benefits of retired teachers even more.

An independent actuarial analysis of Carroll's proposed legislation, which can be found next to Senate Bill 24 on the Legislative Research Commission's Web site, indicates that this fat-laden piece of pork would cost Kentucky an additional \$2.35 billion during the next decade.

Perhaps Carroll discovered a money tree in the Capitol's front lawn that no one else knows about. If so, it should be used to first take care of the state's seriously cash-strapped pension funds before any additional benefits are offered - especially to those no longer in the workforce. Even with the high price of gasoline, Pence could drive many times across Kentucky - an eight-hour trip from west to east - and never spend as much as a drop in the bucket compared with what Carroll would do if he ever got his hands on the state's checkbook again.

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The lieutenant governor went to the Kentucky Educational Television studios in Lexington, where he appeared with me on "Kentucky Tonight," along with the gentlemen from the

state and Jefferson County teachers' unions.

On that show, Pence spoke his mind about how parents' special-needs students should get the state's 109,000 special-needs students about 10 percent of their hard-earned tax dollars in order to send children to schools that provide the best education and special services for individual disabilities.

"This isn't a matter of a parent putting themselves in a system," Pence said. "It's the parent putting the child in a school to help their child. They have more interest than anyone else, including a teacher, an educator or the principal of the school."

"Yikes! One can almost envision Carroll shouting in front of his television audience political fulminations at Pence. You see, Carroll's record shows that he would never upset labor leaders and that he would surround - in a fully fueled vehicle at the proposed 70-mile per hour speed limit.

Your humble correspondent had a different take. I found the lieutenant governor's remarks refreshing. The teachers-union representatives should have saved their gas and skipped the trip to KET.

It's shame Carroll doesn't use his considerable experience to demand that his colleagues give serious attention to new ideas on solving Kentucky's most pressing problems. Instead, he's suggesting that a duly elected lieutenant governor doesn't have the right to disagree with the most powerful politician in the state and remain loyal to his conscience - and his constituents.

And that's too bad.

Jim Waters is the director of policy and communications for the Bluegrass Institute, Kentucky's educational television studios in Lexington, where he appeared with me on "Kentucky Tonight," along with the gentlemen from the

COURT NEWS

Continued from Page 2

Randy Dale Compton vs. Melissa Cox Compton; Revocation Hearing; Order Entered; Hearing 3/27/07 at 1:00pm; Cause Hearing: SC 4/11/07 at \$10.00; Michael Hayne Kearns Earls; Other Hearing; MCK Contempt Hearing set 3/27/07 at 1:00pm; Carolyn M. Evans vs. Robert G. Evans; Order Entered; Contempt Hearing 3/1/07 at 1:00pm; Shirley H. Frederick vs. Michael Dale Frederick; Sentencing; 30 days in jail, probated one year on condition of staying current on child support; Review 4/30/07 at 1:00pm; Catherine Louise Liver vs. Eric Ray Fulton; Sentencing; Hearing 3/1/07 at 1:00pm; Cynthia A. Goodson vs. Donald W. Goodson; Child Support; Order entered; Crystal A. Hunt vs. Christopher L. Hunt; Show Cause Hearing; Order entered; review 4/17/07 at 1:00pm; Terri R. Northcutt vs. Steven R. Northcutt; Other Hearing; \$200.00 paid to wife (OTIS); Contempt Hearing set 4/3/07 at 1:00pm; Amber Hogg Schandling vs. David Heathly Schandling; Other Hearing; Order entered; contempt hearing 4/3/07 at 1:00pm; Julie Kay Spivey vs. Gregory Alan Spivey; Review; Order entered; Review 4/17/07 at 1:00pm; Joseph Michael Warmonth vs. Melanie Buckler Warmonth; Other Hearing; Order Entered; Contempt Hearing 4/17/07 at 1:00pm; George Watkins Jr. vs. Dorothy J. Watkins; Other Hearing; Order Entered; Sentencing Hearing 4/17/07 at 1:00pm;

Case Hearing; SC 4/11/07 at \$10.00; Brandon R. Kimes; Show Cause Hearing; Paid in Full; Tony Ray Wade; Show Cause Hearing; SC 4/11/07 at \$10.00; Doyle Wade; Show Cause Hearing; SC 4/11/07 at \$10.00; Jerry Daniel Watkins; Show Cause Hearing; Contempt Hearing 4/17/07 at 2:00pm; Thomas Henry Watkins; Show Cause Hearing; SC 3/14/07 at 10:00am; Thomas Henry Watkins; Show Cause Hearing; SC 3/14/07 at 10:00am; Estate of Joe Aaron Smith; Review; Tax exemption filed, taken under advisement; Estate of Margaret H. Russell; Probate Hearing; Petition to dispense granted; Estate of Jane Ann Carpenter; Review; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Samuel G. Curtis; Review 4/17/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Joe R. Graves; Inventory; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Austin Clay Green; Probate Hearing; Will admitted to probate; Estate of Bobby Lee Hatfield; Review; Review 4/11/07 at 12:00pm for inventory; Estate of Robert M. Hill-dreth Jr.; Inventory; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Ronald G. McDonald; Probate Hearing; Petition to dispense granted; Estate of Timmy Lee Same; Review; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Clinton Chandler Charles; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Gabrielle Morgan Yazzell; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Kelsey Kay Yazzell; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Jessie C. Kirby; Probate Hearing; will admitted to probate; North Star Acquisitions LLC vs. Edgar Buckler; Motion Hour; Motions passed

Amanda and Gary Jones vs. Stuart Jones, Court Trial; Forcible detainer arrested; Defendant to be out of apartment by 3/14/07 12:00pm; Capital One Bank vs. Leonard Morris; Motion Hour; Motion Passed; Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Rebecca Moric Motion Hour; Defendant judgment granted; order entered; MRC Receivables Corporation vs. David Moss; Motion Hour; Motion for default judgment; motion passed; Cliff Vice vs. Christy Nettie; Court Trial; Forcible Detainer granted; Defendant to vacate no later than 3/14/07 at 12:00pm; Bluegrass Park vs. Bobby Purvis; Forcible detainer dismissed; plaintiff did not appear; Capital One Bank vs. Steven Badd; Motion Hour; Motion passed; Credigy Receivable Inc. See COURT NEWS Page 11

12:00pm

Estate of Joe R. Graves; Inventory; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Austin Clay Green; Probate Hearing; Will admitted to probate; Estate of Bobby Lee Hatfield; Review; Review 4/11/07 at 12:00pm for inventory; Estate of Robert M. Hill-dreth Jr.; Inventory; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Ronald G. McDonald; Probate Hearing; Petition to dispense granted; Estate of Timmy Lee Same; Review; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Clinton Chandler Charles; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Gabrielle Morgan Yazzell; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; In Re Kelsey Kay Yazzell; Review 3/28/07 at 12:00pm; Estate of Jessie C. Kirby; Probate Hearing; will admitted to probate; North Star Acquisitions LLC vs. Edgar Buckler; Motion Hour; Motions passed

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Today's Menu: Monday March 19, 2007 Minute Steaks Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Macaroni & Cheese Wednesday March 21, 2007 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Brown Beans Fried Potatoes Tuesday March 20, 2007 Chicken Strip Basket Cabbage Corn Mashed Potatoes Thursday March 22, 2007 Turkey & Dressing Sweet Potatoes Broccoli Casserole Mashed Potatoes Friday March 23, 2007 Fish Salisbury Steak Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Mashed Potatoes MARATHON 5399 Concrete Rd. • Carlisle 859-289-6118