OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

Less than a decade ago, we were being deluged with unending reports on the coming horror that would be created by Y2K. Billions of dollars were spent to correct an imaginary problem.

Then on that long predicted moment when January 1, 2000, came and passed, nothing happened! The fact was very simple - unless a computer had been programmed to cut off when its calendar turned over "00," nothing was going to happen.

A computer is only a machine and doesn't in itself know the difference between two zeroes and two of any other number. Some would argue that nothing happened because of all the money spent to prevent anything from happening. But, the companies that did nothing came out as good as those who spent millions. It was all a farce!

Then there was the hysteria about El Niño. Now, El Niño was real, but it was nothing new. It has existed as a weather cycle as long as weather has been recorded.

Now we have a new crisis - man-made global warming. If a scientist dares to question this theory of man-made CO2 causing a coming world disaster, that scientist is accused of being on the payroll of the big energy companies or of just being incompetent. No dissention is allowed in the discussion. Open scientific dialog is forbidden.

Any time political correctness demands that open discussion from both sides cannot be part of a discussion, true science goes out the window.

But, some scientists have put their reputations on the line to do the unspeakable. They are challenging the global warming theory. In a 75 minute documentary, which can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XttV2C6B8pU, these scientists clearly show that the scientific evidence doesn't fit the theory.

These researchers say without hesitation that the sun causes global warming cycles. But, there is money involved in being on the global warming bandwagon. So, scientists who want their projects financed, must go with the cash-flow.

Now, it doesn't take a scientist to see good reason to question the global warming theory. Science has taught us that, thousands of years ago, there was an ice age. If that is correct, then this old world has been warming up for a long time. And, we should be glad it did or we would all be Eskimos. By the way, there was no man-made CO2 around way back then to cause all that melting of the ice.

If for one want to go on record as having my own theory about the cause of global warming. My theory will cause me to be labeled a heretic by the politically correct high priests. And, I do hope that the big energy companies will put me on the payroll so I can afford their products.

My theory is this: Global warming is caused by political rhetoric.

Steve Casey
Stonewall, LA

Editor,

The March 14, 2007 issue of The Carlisle Mercury included a column written by Jim Walters. It was titled "A lot of gas spewing from a hollow tank." At least he titled it correctly. The entire column was "A lot of gas spewing from a hollow tank." If Mr. Walters received a free newspaper for writing that, he was over paid! If a columnist can't write a column without personally attacking another person, he doesn't have much to write about.

Former governor, now Sen. Julihn Carroll, has been one of my favorite people and a little bit of drinking.

Tuesday, however, was a rough day for the poor guy. Somehow, in the course of the day someone picked his pocket and walked away with his wallet. So he had lost his bank card and his driver's license.

So, not only did he have the stress of that on him, but then he tried to get back into his room. The key card didn't work. He went down to the front desk and found out that he had read his itinerary wrong. He was supposed to check out that day instead of the next day like he initially thought.

We got a phone call that night with a "can you come get us." My wonderful husband finished up his dinner and headed in to Vegas to pick them up. They spent the night and left in the a.m.

I think Michael enjoyed seeing the babies. But I know he enjoyed seeing Angel. I think Michael misses "his" dog. He likes to call her his, but I call her mine. Anyway, he brought her several packages of treats and gave her lots of kisses while he was here.

He was sad to leave, but mainly because he was leaving the dog. I think she misses him too. We do keep her occupied with friends (Champ, Missy and Gypsy) and Ben takes her on runs as often as he has time to. I hope he knows that we take good care of her. And, she likes the babies. She sits and watches them. I think she thinks she is their mom. She is very protective of them. Which makes me happy.

It never hurts to have an extra set of eyes watching those little ones. I'm sure when they are up and running, the dogs will have tons of fun with them.

We are getting closer to the time when my mom is going to be heading back to Carlisle. That doesn't make me very happy. In fact, when I think about it I get teary eyed. The babies are going to miss her and I am going to miss the extra set of hands to help me out when Ben isn't home.

It is going to be a big challenge. When people ask me about the babies I tend to say it isn't as hard as I thought it would be. I guess the true test for that is going to be when Mom leaves and I have to do most of it by myself.

I know Dad and my sister, Carol, are going to be happy about Mom coming home. Dad misses her, I'm sure, and Carol will be happy to be able to stop helping at the newspaper. I think she deserves a big vacation after all the hard work she has done.

They will be coming out here next week along with my nephew, Evan. I can't wait for them to come other than I know when they leave Mom goes with them. I think I'm going to have to stage a kidnapping so that Mom has to stay here with me! Keep me in your prayers, because when Mom leaves, I'm going to need them!!

Until next week, make it a great one!

Amy

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The Carlisle Mercury

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor.
Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unconfirmed letters will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters and to edit letters for content.
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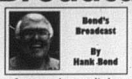
Bond's Broadcast



Hello springtime!

It couldn't have gotten here a minute too soon.

And better than that – I love daylight savings time. I like the extra hour of light in the evening.

I think it makes the weather and all the things there are to do so much more enjoyable. It isn't dark at 5 p.m. and when work is over it's possible to take a drive or grill out and still enjoy the rays of the heavenly sunshine.

I know for sure my grandson Evan likes the warm weather and longer days. He loves to turn out the dog and run and play until the coolness of the evening eclipses his fun.

This past weekend he was outside so much he burned his face from the sun and had to have a layer of lotion to relieve the pain.

On Sunday, which I find a great grandchild story, Evan was issued in a play at secret crossing School in Fleming County.

He was dressed to his high end in the costume and ready to address the new full house.

Just as he readied to speak into the microphone he looked down and proclaimed, "Oh, man, I forgot my scroll!"

To say the absolute very least the crowd went ballistic with laughter. Carol said she couldn't take pictures for the tears running down her face and his dad, Matt, laughed harder than anyone has ever heard.

That doesn't even begin to tell the whole story.

When he realized he was without the proper amount of props he scampered to his seat and brought back the goods.

He again approached the microphone, and without hesitation, raised his head, looked directly into the eyes of the audience, lifted his scroll and dramatically said, "Why, here it is!"

There is something about young people. Their vibrancy and excitement spread through the room like a sweet smell of a spring flower.

It's hard for me not to enjoy little people. I love to listen to them and watch as they form their own ideas and opinions from those around them.

I am going to make this admission here and only once.

I believe a case could be made that I am considerably different when it comes to dealing with Evan. I am almost certain it will be the same when it comes to dealing with Analise and Antonio.

Why not? I will likely have no consequence from my change in tactics.

Evan doesn't seem to mind the attention and I don't mind the unconditional hugs.

With the warm weather I also see it's time for little league baseball and softball. Plus, if this year is the same as any other year, there will be busloads of t-ball players, soccer players, baseball players and softball players making their ways to the public facilities to play away the afternoons and evenings.

Of course we have to wait until school is out before the schedule really kicks into high gear.

These are the times when children learn things they sometimes do not learn in school or in other settings.

Playing on a team has value beyond the simple levels of competition.

Young people have to learn how to play together, share together, win together and lose together.

Nothing warms my heart to see a youngster get a chance to bat, field or throw, when in many other circumstances the same children would never get a chance.

As the weather has warmed up the very time of year predicates an increase in traffic on the byways of our community.

There are so many people coming and going that the congestion creates a danger.

There are so many on foot and riding bicycles it is necessary to pay even more attention.

See BOND Page 9

Veloz Viewpoints

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

Seven weeks. I just can't believe it. It feels like just yesterday and like they have been here for over all at the same time. I swear they learn something new and do something different every day.

It is amazing how well they can both hold their heads up. They will hold their heads completely straight like they have been doing it forever. It is just amazing. They seem too little to be able to do that already.

They remind me of a turtle sticking its head out of its shell when they hold their heads up. I will be reclined in the chair with them on my chest and they will lift their heads up and look at me. It is so cute.

This past week the babies had another special visitor. Uncle Michael. Michael, newly 21, came out to Vegas for his spring break. He and his friend, Alissa, stayed in Vegas for a few days to live up being 21. They went to a show, did some gambling

Talkin' From The Mountains

My Battle With A Vice President of the United States

If you read my column, you know I'm a Democrat, but as a journalist, I fought with Democrats as much as Republicans. Journalists are supposed to have an adversary relationship with elected officials regardless of their party affiliation.

My classic "journalist versus Democrat" battle was a fistfight with Democrat Bobby Kennedy's campaign people. I'll tell you about it another time. The battle I'm going to relate to you here was with former Vice President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey.

I was on my way out the door many years ago to cover a Humphrey news conference when an NBC reporter called from Chicago to tell me that he had just left Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's office and Dailey had criticized Mister Humphrey for the way he ran his Presidential campaign.

Humphrey walked into the press conference with a big smile and a wave. The smile didn't stay on his face long. When he called on me to ask a question, I hit him with what Mayor Daley had said.

The smile turned into a scowl. Mister Humphrey turned red in the face, glared at me, and then replied, "Young man, I have been around you reporters all my life and I know how much you love controversy. If Richard Daley said anything bad about me, I am certain it was because some reporter like you goaded him into it."

"That could be, sir, but are their problems and infighting in the Democratic Party?"

Humphrey glared at me again. There was fire in his eyes.

"Son," he said, "the election is over. It's history. We are not here today to discuss history. Let's discuss the news."

"I'm sorry, sir," I said, "but when one of the most powerful men in the Democratic Party blasts another powerful member of the party, it most certainly is news."

Humphrey did more than just glare at me this time. He was shooting daggers. I could almost see them darting from his eyes.

"All I have to say," said Humphrey, "is my heart is filled with love for Mayor Daley and" (he was yelling by this time and looking straight at me) "this news conference is over!"

And with that, Mister Humphrey stormed off.

As we were breaking down our equipment, the usually good-natured Humphrey walked back in the room, found me, walked over, got right in my face and poked a finger toward my chest. I thought for a minute, he was going to punch me.

He glanced at the NBC logo on our equipment.

"Did that bunch of cutthroats at NBC put you up to that line of questioning?" he sputtered.

"I was just trying to do my job, sir," I replied.

"That's right, young man," he said as he poked his index finger in the region of my chest, "you have a job to do, and I have a job to do. I just hope you get paid as well to do your job as I do to do mine."

I stood there pondering his statement as he walked away.

"What did that mean?" another reporter asked.

"I'm not sure," I said, "I think he just called me small time."

Well, he was the second most powerful man in the nation, he did run for President, and he does make more money than you," said another reporter with a laugh.

So, that's how a kid in his 20s (me) was able to infuriate one of the most powerful, influential men in the nation.

And here is the incredibly wonderful thing about the United States at the time. No one showed up at my door later to arrest me, or to even question me. No one tried to intimidate or hurt me. Our nation was more democratic than it is today. I shudder to think what kind of intimidation or persecution I would encounter if I had that exchange with Vice President Cheney.

It could be argued that I didn't show Vice President Humphrey enough respect, but he had an obligation to answer reporters' questions. Journalists are the watchdogs for the American people, or at least, they used to be. It is absolutely necessary for journalists to have this much freedom—even to the point of being rude-if we are going to continue to be a democracy.

There has been a slow chipping away of our individual rights since Bush became President. Elected officials tell us that it is necessary to give up some of our rights because of the terrorist threat.

Sorry, I'm not willing to give up mine--no matter what the threat.

We need to fight to get back all of the freedoms guaranteed us by the Constitution, and never allow any President or Congress to take them away again.

Benjamin Franklin said, "those that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty or safety."

**** 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@adelphia.net.**

OPINION

Fourth District Report

Congress Begins Considering the FY2008 Budget

This past week Democrats on Capitol Hill introduced their budget proposal. It has been estimated that if the Democrats' budget proposal were to become law, it would increase taxes by $400 billion over the next five years – the largest tax increase on American families in history.

When the new majority took control of Congress, one of their first actions was to put in place PAYGO, or pays-as-you-go, budget rules.

While this sounds reasonable, the way the rules are being implemented is not reasonable.

In short, these rules make it easier to raise taxes. PAYGO budget rules require any increases in spending to be offset in other portions of the federal budget – it is a lot like the old adage, robbing Peter to pay Paul.

At the same time, these new rules do nothing to reform or control spending on current programs. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal editorial stated, "PAYGO is a way of diverting attention from the wisdom taught by Milton Friedman: The true burden of government is what it spends – not what it takes in taxes." Our government's problem is not that it is taxing too little; it is that we are spending too much.

Current entitlement spending is growing at an unsustainable rate of 6 percent every year, more than twice the rate of inflation. If left unchecked, by 2015 entitlements will consume 62 percent of the total budget.

By 2040, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid alone will be 20 percent of our economy and will require Americans to pay double their current rate of taxes just to maintain the level of benefits in 2007.

Budgets require difficult choices among innumerable competing priorities. And without reform now, entitlement programs will be unsustainable. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the House Budget Committee in 2005 on entitlement spending saying,

"You either chose to do something in advance, which will ameliorate the problem...or wait until the problem is right on you, in which solutions are going to be very painful." Now is the time for action on controlling spending for the sake of our fiscal stability.

Perhaps most notably, the Democrat budget assumes that tax relief enacted in 2001 and 2003 will expire in 2010. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, this tax relief produced reduced rates and lowered tax bills for more than 459,000 married couples in Kentucky who benefited from an increase in the standard deduction for joint filers.

Additionally, more than 370,000 of the Commonwealth's married couples and single parents benefited from an increase in the child tax credit from $500 to $1,000. But with this budget, Democrats are guaranteeing more than 115 million taxpayers an average tax increase of $1,795.

Beginning with the President's budget proposal and ending with the law that is finally passed by Congress, a multitude of proposals and ideas are considered during the annual budget process.

As Congress moves forward, our most important priority is to be responsible stewards of the taxpayers' money. Our strong economy, low unemployment rate and increased revenues are indicators that tax 'relief and past efforts at fiscal restraint are working.

I remain committed to fiscal discipline. I am hopeful that the Republican budget proposal will present creative solutions to the multitude of fiscal challenges facing our nation.

I will do everything I can to ensure that the Budget Resolution for FY2008 contains meaningful reform and restraint in spending and does not raise taxes on Kentucky's working families and businesses.

Steve's Report

During previous centuries, when a new home was built, it was common practice in Europe to carve words of wisdom into the beam over the entryway. One ancient house near Stirling Castle in Scotland bears the advice for all passers-by:

"Whate'er Thou Art – Act Well Thy Part."

Recently, Cindy's car developed a large case of freckles. I guess someone must have been painting near where she had parked, because when she got home, her minivan had little paint specks all over it. The insurance company recommended going to Queen Paint and Body Shop for detailing. We called and made an appointment for 8:00 the next morning.

Mike, the owner and sole employee was there waiting for us when we arrived. After making introductions and shaking hands, Mike eagerly led us over to a shelf full of various cleaning products, solvents, abrasives, and waxes. After pointing out a row of spray bottles, he selected one from the middle explaining that it contained his own special blend of solvents that would soften up either water-base or oil-base paint specks without damaging the underlying finish.

While Mike was walking around the car looking at the extent of the overspray, he starting teaching us about paint and how to best wash, wax, and buff it. He kept zipping back and forth between the car and the shelf, bringing back different products and demonstrating how he used them and how effective they were for different applications. As he talked, his eyes sparkled with enthusiasm. I leaned over and whispered to Cindy, "Now here's a guy who loves his work."

When we returned the next morning to pick up the car, we were amazed at the transformation. The car looked brand new, like it had just rolled off the showroom floor. We were amazed. Mike was pleased with our reaction to the miracle he had worked, but after our "Ooo's and Ahh's" out of the way, he pointed out the dings and chips in the paint he obviously couldn't make go away. You could tell it bothered him that the car's surface wasn't perfect.

Then Mike showed me a few different types of wax, recommending a particular brand of cream wax. He told me to avoid using soap because it strips the wax, telling me to rinse the car with cold water to remove the debris, and to then wipe it clean and dry with a good, soft chamois, rinsing it frequently.

He said, "A good wax can give your paint job excellent protection for up to 4 months if you treat it right! If you do a good job, you can avoid coming back here for years." This, I realized, is the difference between a professional artisan and a businessman. If doing business had been his only concern, he would have spared the advice to make sure we'd have to come back frequently. But as a true professional, his work was like a piece of art, and he wanted to see it preserved for as long as possible.

I promised to follow his advice faithfully as we stepped into the office to complete

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Today's Menu:
Thursday March 29, 2007 — Ham w/ Glaze, Mashed Potatoes, Apples, California Blend
Friday March 30, 2007 — Fish, Chicken Livers, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes
Monday April 2, 2007 — Pepper Steak, Mashed Potafoes, Green Beans, Rice
Tuesday April 3, 2007 — Meatloaf, Brown Beans, Fried Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes
Wednesday April 4, 2007 — Stuffed Peppers, Spaghetti, Mashed Potatoes, Corn
MARATHON 5399 Concrete Rd. • Carlisle 859-289-6118

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