

OPINION

Guest Editorial Board's Broadcast

By Al Smith

Disclosures about the stormy career of Barbara Erwin, the designated new commissioner of education in Kentucky, suggest the need for a pause and thorough review before she is signed on a contract.

This is one of the most important jobs in the state. In the interest of the future of our children and in respect to the legacy left by so many who have struggled for better schools, the best thing we can do for the Board of Education is to hammer down and refuse to look at the evidence against this appointment. Despite citations for achievement, the narrative of Dr. Erwin's career in three states is repeatedly indexed with controversy.

Although those problems were brought to light by reporters, not the board's search firm, it's not too late to address them. The scheduled meeting next week to negotiate details of a contract should either be postponed or amended to give Dr. Erwin a chance publicly to discuss the allegations about her career. Beyond questions of temperament and a false claim on her resume, the record is already clear enough for most Kentuckians to understand that she simply hasn't the experience to justify running a state system.

Meanwhile, for the past six months, the interim commissioner, Kevin Noland, has kept the education ship stable. If not making progress, it hasn't sprung a leak. Having held this job twice before, Mr. Noland, whose regular position is general counsel for the Education Department, surely has the skills to keep it afloat for the rest of the year. It would be a trade-off—stability versus progress—but that would better than hiring a leader who works with charisma, so as to speak, firing and buying out employees in astonishing numbers.

A case for an extended pause is the obvious problem reporters have had trying to get a job done. It's not clear why an education commissioner in a state so buffeted by the winds of politics.

Who would want to risk leaving a secure position to negotiate for Kentucky's schools in the current political climate? This also suggests that if the board's search firm, or someone else, mind about Dr. Erwin, the very worst thing it could do would be to fall back on another of its three finalists—the gentleman from Washington who has a record of being ousted from another job, undermining school reforms in Virginia, and, allegedly, peddling working with women.

All that said, the press and other critics of the Erwin appointment, should soundly applaud, not mock, the Board if it musters the courage to challenge her.

One of the greatest school benefactors in Kentucky, the late W.T. Young, the Lexington horseman and business wizard, left three scholarships for a Transylvania University president, three two of them within the first year before he settled on Charles Shaw who was right there under his nose in the administration office.

Shawer is still at Transylvania, 26 years later, and when Mr. Young's Grandmother won the Kentucky Derby, nobody recalled that it took him three times to find the right president.

—Veteran journalist Al Smith, host of KET's Comment on Kentucky, is a former member of the Higher Education and chaired a Governor's Commission on Educational Reform in the 1980s.

Also he is a founding director of the Governor's Scholars, a founder of Forward in the Fifth, a founder of Leadership Kentucky, and will receive his honorary degree from a Kentucky school where he gave the commencement speech at Pikeville College, along with being a past president of the Kentucky Press Association.

The Carlisle Mercury (USPS 023-152) is published every Wednesday. The Carlisle Mercury, 117 Locust St. Carlisle, KY 40311. Periodicals Postage Rates are paid at Carlisle, KY 40311. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Carlisle Mercury, PO Box 212, Carlisle, KY 40311.

Member of Kentucky Press Association and the International Society of Weekly Newspapers. 2007 SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$25.00 for one year in Nicholas County, \$30.00 elsewhere in Kentucky and \$35.00 out of state. Subscriptions include sales tax where applicable. All subscriptions payable in advance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a return address for confirmation. Unpublished letters will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Please include a return address for confirmation. The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

HOW TO REACH US Mailing address: P.O. Box 372, Carlisle, KY 40311 Phone: 606-228-0422 Fax: 606-228-0406 Email: news@carlislemercury.com

PHOTO-ELECTRONIC ADVERTISING: Color, black and white and digital photos are all accepted. Digital photos should be submitted in the jpg format and can be emailed. Old photos will be accepted in any size. Photos do not submit newspaper clippings or photocopies. Photos may be picked up after they are published in the newspaper. Electronic advertising should be submitted in pdf format and can be emailed to the above address.

LEGAL ADVERTISING: Front-Panel, Size 7-8. Deadline 4 p.m. Monday. All submitted copy must be signed and include a daytime phone number. The Carlisle Mercury reserves the right to reject any submission to this newspaper. While it is the policy of this paper to print as much local material as possible, it is necessary to obtain the right of carriage for the print or electronic advertisement. The publication contract for the ad is subject to the terms and conditions of the advertising contract. The publisher reserves the right to edit any ad for space management needs as appropriate. Advertisements accepted for publication are subject to the terms and conditions of the advertising contract. The publisher reserves the right to edit any ad for space management needs as appropriate. Advertisements accepted for publication are subject to the terms and conditions of the advertising contract.

Head's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

I spent some time last Friday at Nicholas County Elementary School watching as Junior and seniors felt the presence of the Grim Reaper.

There was an all day event, a Ghost Out, held at NCHS sponsored in part by the Family Resource Center and the Kentucky Department of Transportation. Also speaking was Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler who is the School Resource Officer as well as the DARE instructor.

Each student chosen by the Grim Reaper was taken from the school, later appeared with the group, and ultimately was placed under the Grim Reaper's call. It was eerie as Rev. Howard Livingston read the obituary of each of the students as they were visited by the Grim Reaper on the floor of the elementary gymnasium, and with the help of Nicholas County Ambulance Personnel placed them on the floor and covered them with white sheets. This is much as it is at the scene of an accident when someone is fatally injured.

They are placed under sheets or some type of cover until the coroner is called and they are declared dead at the scene.

No amount of protest, no amount of crying, no amount of pleading brings someone back once they have lost the battle with the Grim Reaper.

Veloz Viewpoints

By Amy Bond Veloz

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

Before I got started on this week's column I just want to wish Ben a happy birthday! He turns 25 this Wednesday. Now he is old too!

Brainpower is a funny thing. It is a common thought that when you are pregnant you have trouble remembering things. Not me. When I was pregnant I was as sharp as a tack. I could remember the smallest details from 10 years ago. I could remember phone numbers and small details from work. I never missed a beat.

I had been worried going into my pregnancy that I would have trouble recalling facts for work. But it never was a problem...until now!

I guess it comes from the extreme lack of sleep or something, but I have been having the hardest time remembering things lately. I couldn't remember what I received this most interesting letter from a former Carlisle resident who now lives in Canada. She agreed to let me share it with all of you.

Hello Mr. Greer, I am a former Carlisle resident who returned in 1989 to my home in Canada. I routinely read the Mercury online, always enjoy it, and noticed your comments in this week's issue.

One of the things I notice has been debated for years is health care, it's cost, and the possibility in the US of what you call Universal Health Care. In Canada, such health care is the norm, and thank heaven it is. Yes, we pay a high sales tax; called the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) (8 percent Federal and 6 percent Provincial) of 14 percent on all goods and services, and, yes, many grumble about it. On its face it sounds outrageous. But when you are faced with tremendous health issues and those costs are covered, you do not even think about it. On its face it sounds outrageous. But when you are faced with tremendous health issues and those costs are covered, you do not even think about it.

Continuing the Fight for Immigration Reform

By Scott Davis 4th District Congressman

Last week's protests demonstrated that our nation's immigration policies remain an emotional issue for many Americans. I hear regularly from constituents who are concerned with illegal immigration, so I want to update you on several related issues Congress is working to address.

First and foremost, I remain opposed to amnesty. Rewarding illegal immigrants with the benefits of citizenship sends the wrong message to those who came to our country legally. The Department of Transportation announced a pilot program that would allow presence with the James Morgan family were exempted from the Draper Manuscripts, including interviews of the survivors of the battle, and an 1845 newspaper article appearing in the Morristown Jerseyman. James Morgan was reported listed as "captured" in the Battle of Blount.

HEAVEN

Continued from Page 2 I had survived the battle. I said good-bye to my angelic mother who passed on last week, dear reader. She lived a blessed life for 76 years and helped raise a large family and the rural, rural place of Fleming, Ky. I hope the students at the high school got the message. When she spotted Bob Greene walking toward her, she smiled and waved for as long as I live will never forget. It took all the energy I could muster to keep her away from the car.

On top of this, I was asked by the investigators to take picture of the monument. And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

My memory, my loss of any memory what so ever is worth it when my little one smile at me. And they are smiling more and more every day. I love them so much. More than anyone possibly comprehend before they get that little smile. The babies are doing great. Some nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile.

This is just one example of my fading memory. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile.

Talkin' From The Mountains

By Dale Greer

Had I lived here in the US this might have all but ruined me financially. Since I am a Canadian, it cost me only for the tv I bought for my room for the duration of my 2 weeks hospitalization. Cost to me: \$0.

When I returned to my home, my first task was to find a doctor. I found one who immediately ordered as complete a physical with me; \$80.

In 1998 I tumbled down my basement and broke my leg. This required going to Outpatients and having X-rays, then the setting and casting of the leg. Following the normal healing process, there were crutches, follow-up doctor visits, and rehab. My Physiotherapist department for a couple months. Cost to me: \$0.

In 2004 I learned through extensive testing that I was dealing with cancer. Major surgery, two-week hospitalization, follow-ups, chemotherapy and visits to the Provincial Cancer Clinic. CT scans, X-rays, another 2 weeks in hospital. My Physiotherapist department for a couple months. Cost to me: \$0.

Yes, we pay a high sales tax; called the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) (8 percent Federal and 6 percent Provincial) of 14 percent on all goods and services, and, yes, many grumble about it. On its face it sounds outrageous. But when you are faced with tremendous health issues and those costs are covered, you do not even think about it. On its face it sounds outrageous. But when you are faced with tremendous health issues and those costs are covered, you do not even think about it.

Fourth District Report

By Scott Davis 4th District Congressman

Continuing the Fight for Immigration Reform. Last week's protests demonstrated that our nation's immigration policies remain an emotional issue for many Americans. I hear regularly from constituents who are concerned with illegal immigration, so I want to update you on several related issues Congress is working to address.

First and foremost, I remain opposed to amnesty. Rewarding illegal immigrants with the benefits of citizenship sends the wrong message to those who came to our country legally. The Department of Transportation announced a pilot program that would allow presence with the James Morgan family were exempted from the Draper Manuscripts, including interviews of the survivors of the battle, and an 1845 newspaper article appearing in the Morristown Jerseyman. James Morgan was reported listed as "captured" in the Battle of Blount.

HEAVEN

Continued from Page 2 I had survived the battle. I said good-bye to my angelic mother who passed on last week, dear reader. She lived a blessed life for 76 years and helped raise a large family and the rural, rural place of Fleming, Ky. I hope the students at the high school got the message. When she spotted Bob Greene walking toward her, she smiled and waved for as long as I live will never forget. It took all the energy I could muster to keep her away from the car.

On top of this, I was asked by the investigators to take picture of the monument. And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

My memory, my loss of any memory what so ever is worth it when my little one smile at me. And they are smiling more and more every day. I love them so much. More than anyone possibly comprehend before they get that little smile. The babies are doing great. Some nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile.

This is just one example of my fading memory. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile.

TALKIN'

Continued from Page 4

enough to leave our troops in harm's way with no resources. And don't fall for his tiresome "not supporting the troops" line. The latest poll indicate that a majority of those serving in the military—and their families—now favor a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. It should now be clear to everyone that it is Bush who is not supporting our troops.

Bush is going to continue barricading himself away from the American people and denying that the war he started is a fiasco until he is driven out of office.

This arrogant, incompetent President has become a threat to our national security. The Iraq war threatens to economically and morally bankrupt us, and our military is limited to respond to a crisis here at home or elsewhere else because of his actions.

Dale Greer is a member of the faculty at Morehead State University. He has extensive background in media industry. He has been a reporter and stints as a major television anchor. He can be reached via email at, dgreer@roadrunner.com.

Subscribe Today Call 289-6425

OPINION

Fourth District Report

By Scott Davis 4th District Congressman

Continuing the Fight for Immigration Reform. Last week's protests demonstrated that our nation's immigration policies remain an emotional issue for many Americans. I hear regularly from constituents who are concerned with illegal immigration, so I want to update you on several related issues Congress is working to address.

First and foremost, I remain opposed to amnesty. Rewarding illegal immigrants with the benefits of citizenship sends the wrong message to those who came to our country legally. The Department of Transportation announced a pilot program that would allow presence with the James Morgan family were exempted from the Draper Manuscripts, including interviews of the survivors of the battle, and an 1845 newspaper article appearing in the Morristown Jerseyman. James Morgan was reported listed as "captured" in the Battle of Blount.

HEAVEN

Continued from Page 2 I had survived the battle. I said good-bye to my angelic mother who passed on last week, dear reader. She lived a blessed life for 76 years and helped raise a large family and the rural, rural place of Fleming, Ky. I hope the students at the high school got the message. When she spotted Bob Greene walking toward her, she smiled and waved for as long as I live will never forget. It took all the energy I could muster to keep her away from the car.

On top of this, I was asked by the investigators to take picture of the monument. And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

My memory, my loss of any memory what so ever is worth it when my little one smile at me. And they are smiling more and more every day. I love them so much. More than anyone possibly comprehend before they get that little smile. The babies are doing great. Some nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile. I sleep at a time. Of course, other nights they are up and get that little smile.

This is just one example of my fading memory. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile. I am getting that little smile.

TALKIN'

Continued from Page 4

enough to leave our troops in harm's way with no resources. And don't fall for his tiresome "not supporting the troops" line. The latest poll indicate that a majority of those serving in the military—and their families—now favor a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. It should now be clear to everyone that it is Bush who is not supporting our troops.

Bush is going to continue barricading himself away from the American people and denying that the war he started is a fiasco until he is driven out of office.

This arrogant, incompetent President has become a threat to our national security. The Iraq war threatens to economically and morally bankrupt us, and our military is limited to respond to a crisis here at home or elsewhere else because of his actions.

Dale Greer is a member of the faculty at Morehead State University. He has extensive background in media industry. He has been a reporter and stints as a major television anchor. He can be reached via email at, dgreer@roadrunner.com.

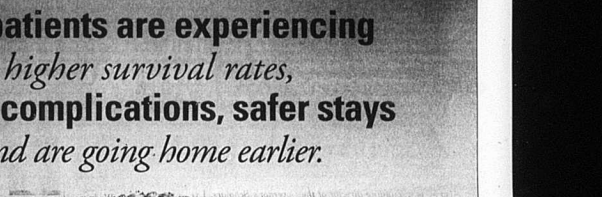
Subscribe Today Call 289-6425

Our patients are experiencing higher survival rates, fewer complications, safer stays and are going home earlier.

Licks said his name appears as such on the monument within the park. Former and current park employees have also assisted greatly in my research.

You can reach Charles Mattax at charles@carlislemercury.com

I will continue to keep you posted on our efforts in Congress to control illegal immigration, enforce our nation's laws and improve our border security.



The University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital has been recognized for the fourth time in our history as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals. We're the only Lexington hospital to be so ranked in 2006. The Solucient 100 Top Hospitals/Benchmarks for Success study also identifies UK Chandler Hospital as one of the nation's top 15 major academic medical centers. While we're honored to receive the award, it's our patients who are the true winners.

Being named a 100 Top Hospital is just the icing on the cake.

That's because top hospitals like ours are run more efficiently, deliver the latest evidence-based treatments and provide patients with the most advanced medicine. We're committed to continually improving our quality of care. For more information about what it means to be ranked among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals, give UK HealthCare a call or visit our informative Web site.

UKHealthCare 1-800-333-8874 • ukhealthcare.uky.edu