

# Guest Editorial

## Supporters of Drug Importation Are TRIPPING

By Lawrence A. Hunter, Ph.D.

Congress is soon expected to consider whether U.S. consumers should be able to purchase pharmaceuticals from abroad. The legislation to allow drug re-importation is expected to include a provision that represents one of the most destructive government interventions into free markets since the New Deal.

Called "forced sale," the provision would compel American companies to sell their drugs at the same price as they are selling them back into the United States, and they will be required to sell them at a price and in quantities dictated by the United States government.

Proponents of drug re-importation comprise an odd mix of ideological hodgepodge. On the left, advocates of national health care believe it's unfair for Americans to pay higher prices for brand-name prescription drugs than Europeans and Canadians do in their socialist and price-controlled systems. On the right, and free traders argue that the ban is an unjustified barrier to free trade, which keeps prices high.

Pharmaceutical companies argue that although the ban is imperfect, it is essential to lessen the damage caused by the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This international agreement permits countries to revoke patents in "circumstances of extreme urgency" or for "public non-commercial use."

What this so-called "public-interest" loophole means in countries with price controls is that foreign governments have enormous bargaining power which it comes to negotiating prices with U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturers. "TRIPS empowers these countries to make U.S. companies 'offer' their cut rate."

In our market economy, businesses have the right not to sell a product or to sell it only on acceptable terms. Foreign sales provisions revoke this integral principle. Through forced sale, the U.S. government would decide to whom a company will sell its goods, how much of those goods it will sell, on what terms, and for what price.

Proponents argue that it's the only way to bring lower drug prices into the United States. But forced sale provisions won't result in significantly lower prices; they simply will create a market for foreign re-sellers that will sell at artificially low prices, export them back into the American market, and then sell them for considerably more.

That's not free trade, either. It's government-managed trade through a particularly obnoxious government regulation. Whatever one's opinion on the merits of importation, no real free trader could possibly support coupling its repeal with a forced-else mandate.

If, as free traders contend, the point of lifting the importation ban is to remove an artificial government barrier to trade that keeps prices "artificially high," then the legislation that repeal with a new "forced-sale" provision is unnecessary. If drug re-importation won't lower prices without and some new vigorous government intervention, then it is clear the motivation for lifting the ban goes far beyond removing an impediment to free trade; it includes importing foreign price controls into the United States via the back door.

Since when do free traders support Congress's setting prices? If foreign buyers are to have the right to import prescription drugs back into the United States, then certainly domestic sellers should be free to determine the terms upon which they will export those drugs to foreign.

It would be ironic - but not less tragic - if price controls were smuggled into the United States through a forced-else mandate doled in the rhetoric of free trade.

*"Dr. Lawrence A. Hunter is senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Innovation and the former staff director of the congressional Joint Economic Committee."*

# The Carlisle Mercury

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# OPINION

## Bond's Broadcast

November 6, 2007. It will be an extremely important day in the life of Kentucky as a metaphorical as that may appear.

In Nicholas County we only have two candidates to consider, while some of the adjoining counties are filling the polls to open seats - if I am on Tues., Nov. 6, I'd like to suggest that if you are a registered voter, please take the time to go to the polls and cast your ballot.

While I have heard many say that they have no plan to vote because voting for governor doesn't matter, let me tell you it would be a good idea for those people - and anyone else who has that opinion - to go vote.

Here's why I think that: If you have been around Kentucky politics very long you know that the state has had this opinion - to go vote.

To my knowledge there is no middle of the road candidate. There really hasn't been a candidate that could possibly appeal to both sides that I can remember.

We have candidates that have a lot of loyal followers. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying either side is bad, I am saying politics has had

# Veloz Viewpoints

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

This week has been a whirlwind of a week, especially this past weekend. I'll start with the new things going on in our house.

If I guess I'll start with my favorite new thing. Antonio has learned and now some new vigorous government intervention, then it is clear the motivation for lifting the ban goes far beyond removing an impediment to free trade; it includes importing foreign price controls into the United States via the back door.

It would be ironic - but not less tragic - if price controls were smuggled into the United States through a forced-else mandate doled in the rhetoric of free trade.

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# Talkin' From the Mountains

The Tallest Woman In The World

Sandy Allen made a lasting impression on me. Sandy is the tallest woman in the world. She began life in 1965 near Indianapolis as a normal newborn weighing 6 and a half pounds, but she began to grow abnormally fast soon after her birth.

Suddenly, I felt ashamed for looking her on my show. The tall woman was being exploited, and I was part of it. She couldn't fit in the chairs she sat on, she was hurriedly brought in a couch from the prop area.

I found Sandy to be bright, friendly and personable. I asked her why she was exploiting herself. She told me she didn't know what she was doing, but she loved to do it. "I can't get a good job. No one wants to hire someone who looks like me," she said.

She explained to me how expensive it was for her to even provide herself with life's necessities. All of her clothes had to be sewn just for her. She had to have her shoes specially made. "And it takes at least six hamburgers and five orders of French Fries to fill me up if I go to McDonald's." If she did go to McDonald's, she couldn't sit down. There was no furniture big or strong enough to hold her.

Sandy said she was going to make enough money from the Guinness tour to buy a specially equipped car, so she could drive for the very

# OPINION

## Protecting Taxpayers

Last week, House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel (D-NY) introduced legislation that would raise taxes on the American people by \$3.5 trillion over the next ten years under the guise of eliminating the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

As a taxpayer, I thought it was critical that we fix the AMT and how this legislation, if it were to be enacted, would affect you. The AMT was first enacted in 1969 to ensure that all taxpayers, particularly the wealthiest Americans, shared the tax burden of the 10 percent of wealthy taxpayers who were not intended to be applied to working class families.

If Congress does not act immediately to enact a fix, it is estimated that \$5 million unsuspecting Americans will be subject to the AMT next year. Those newly affected by the AMT will see an average increase in their taxes of \$2,800.

In addition, if Congress does not address the issue early enough in the tax year it could delay the tax returns for 25 million Americans for up to ten weeks. In effect, Congress should not be raising taxes on middle class Americans in order to fix a policy that was never intended to affect them.

With the expiration of this tax relief and the implementation of several new taxes on the tax rate for average Americans would rise from 35 to 44 percent by 2011.

# Steve's Report

A few weeks ago, my youngest son, Max, returned home in great spirits after spending the evening bowling with some friends. He came up to me to tell me all about it. Trying to be a good father, I stopped what I was doing and gave him my full attention: "Welcome home. How did it go?"

Max built up the drama and mystery by making me guess his score, telling me if my next guess needed to be higher or lower until I finally got it right. Based on how happy and excited he was acting, I figured he had bowled a pretty good score. So I started to say, "Lower, 100. Lower, 90. Lower, 90. Lower..."

Each time Max told me to even lower my eyes got wider and his grin got bigger. Finally, I hit the mark at the unbelievably low score of 46. Max tends to be fairly competitive and hates to lose just as much as I do. Instead of increasing her efforts to do better, she changed friends, seeking out new ones who did even less than her former friends. This cycle continued until she eventually found herself in a desperate and hopeless situation that made it nearly impossible for her to achieve what had once been a promising potential with a very bright future.

Before I tell you what happened next, it's important that I remind you: When Max got home I was trying to be a good father - listening attentively and remaining patient as he made me play a guessing game in instead of just telling me the

with clothes. According to my son, she sometimes wears Shanelle O'Neal's hand-me-downs (even though they are too small for her). Sandy told me she hoped to make enough money through working for Guinness to have surgery that would stop her from growing so tall. Her mother, a widow, was the culprit. I had the surgery in 1977. The surgery stopped her from growing but her legs were given out and she is now confined to a wheelchair. I found Sandy to be bright, friendly and personable. I asked her why she was exploiting herself. She told me she didn't know what she was doing, but she loved to do it. "I can't get a good job. No one wants to hire someone who looks like me," she said.

She explained to me how expensive it was for her to even provide herself with life's necessities. All of her clothes had to be sewn just for her. She had to have her shoes specially made. "And it takes at least six hamburgers and five orders of French Fries to fill me up if I go to McDonald's." If she did go to McDonald's, she couldn't sit down. There was no furniture big or strong enough to hold her.

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## Fourth District Report

My performance in comparison to what we are capable of achieving, rather than in comparison to how everyone else does. I even had a true story to illustrate my point: "We once knew a teenage girl who had gotten into the habit of giving less than her best effort. She knew she could do better and felt guilty about giving less than 100 percent, but was going through a bit of a lazy streak. Rather than increasing her effort, she decided to start hanging around with kids who put out even less effort than she did, telling herself, "At least I'm doing better than they are."

So my response to the current situation was not unnatural, it was virtually automatic. I really wasn't bothered by Max's low bowling score, in and of itself, it was pretty insignificant. And I was curious as to how he had a good time. The thing that concerned me was how easily Max had accepted his situation by comparing it with someone else's.

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City Limits - Every Weekend - 8:30-Midnight

Thurs., Nov. 1 - Uncle Charlie's Pie, Tenderloin, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Broccoli Casserole, Salad Bar and Rolls - \$9.95  
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 2 & 3 - Crab Legs, Baked Potato, Salad and Rolls - \$14.95  
Thurs., Nov. 8 - Euchre Tournament  
75% of pot to 1st place, 25% of pot to 2nd place, \$10 entry  
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 9 & 10 - Surf & Turf, Baked Potato, Salad and Rolls - \$13.95

Thurs., Nov. 15 - Family Night - Magic Show - Randy Eldridge  
3:00 Adults - 12 and under FREE - 7 p.m.  
Spaghetti/Meatballs, Breadsticks - \$8.95  
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 16 & 17 - 10 oz. Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Salad and Rolls - \$14.95

Thurs., Nov. 22 - Closed Thanksgiving  
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 23 & 24 - BBQ Ribs, Baked Potato, Salad and Rolls - \$12.95  
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 - Grilled Chicken Fetta, Salad and Breadsticks - \$10.95

Call Now for Holiday Catering 289-5400

# OPINION

## Susie's flowers & Gifts

Open House - Nov. 10th - 9:5 Refreshments • Door Prizes  
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Full Service Florist • Weddings • Balloons  
Traditional Arrangements • Wreaths • Centrepieces  
Monument Saddles (Fresh or Silk)  
Personalized Throws  
Owner & Operator Susie Myers  
115 W. Main - Carlisle - Mon.-Sat. 9-5  
859-289-2094

PURSUANT TO KRS 42A.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED," THE FOLLOWING NAMES WILL APPEAR ON ALL THE VOTING MACHINES IN NICHOLAS COUNTY FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 2007.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR NICHOLAS COUNTY  
GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

STATE OF KENTUCKY  
COUNTY OF NICHOLAS  
I, Douglas Fryman, Clerk of Nicholas County, Kentucky certify that the above and foregoing is a true, complete and correct copy of the ballot that will appear on the voting machine for the Democrat and Republican party for the 2007 General Election.  
Given under my hand and seal of office this 22nd day of October, 2007.  
*Douglas Fryman*  
Nicholas County Clerk

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
(Vote for One)  
Brian FLETCHER  
Robin POLK  
REPUBLICAN PARTY

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE  
(Vote for One)  
Rishia FARMER  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
David Lynn WILLIAMS  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SECRETARY OF STATE  
(Vote for One)  
C. Paul "Trey" GRAYSON  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
David HERRICKSON  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
(Vote for One)  
Brian Lee  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
David Lynn WILLIAMS  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
(Vote for One)  
Linda GREENWELL  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
Gert LAMLER  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

STATE TREASURER  
(Vote for One)  
Stephanie L. WHEELER  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
L.J. "Bud" HOLMGRON  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
(Vote for One)  
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