

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Should we laugh or cry when Leno goes 'Yaawhhhh'?

America's founders knew an uninformed citizenry presented a greater threat to freedom than military power.

Thomas Jefferson wrote: "If a nation expects to be free, it must expect to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

While Jefferson may be one of the most aggrieved victims of "revisionist history," even the most "political" did what he had to do to acquire to his assertion that citizens cannot be both ignorant and adequately preserve, much less defend, their freedoms.

Jefferson and his fellow signers of the Declaration of Independence would not



have pledged, as they put it, "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" for a cause they didn't believe in.

But it goes much deeper than just finding them to be wrong on freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press and to petition for redress of grievances as offered by the First Amendment.

They understood the uniqueness of our representative democracy - a government that still separates ours from every other nation in history. It makes America the envy of the world.

But I'm concerned that many Americans may be

forgetting Jefferson's admonition that an ignorant nation and freedom cannot co-exist.

Last year, only one in 1,000 American adults who responded to a survey from the new McCracken Tribune Freedom Museum

guaranteed by the First Amendment. Only one-tenth of 1 percent of respondents knew that freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press and to petition for redress of grievances are offered by the First Amendment.

"Say it ain't so, Joe!" Oh, but it is so.

Only 8 percent of survey respondents could name at least three of those First-Amendment freedoms. Yet, a whopping 82 percent of the same group could name at least two members of "The Simpson" TV cartoon family

to Washington, D.C. I nearly choked.

Leno asked several people the same question. No one in the broadcast answered the question correctly. (In case you don't know, each state sends two senators and the District of Columbia sends one nonvoting member.)

Several people Leno queried flagged on this question: "How many sides to the Pentagon?"

Mr. Atlanta teacher: "Three."

Civic illiteracy may make for good late-night television laughs. But it drains my hope that America and especially Kentucky can turn the information provided by groups such as the Blue-

grass Institute, which provides sound, nonpartisan analysis on public issues, and believe passively in the commonwealth's politics.

Only by refusing to waffle in our ignorance can we pass on the blessings of liberty conceived in our courageous founders' noble sacrifice.

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@bips.org. You can read previously published columns at www.bips.org.

entitlement culture that pervades our society.

Granted, not knowing the number of sides on the Pentagon doesn't ensure anarchy. But remaining uninformed about the role, rights and responsibilities of citizens is so laughing matter.

You may never take up arms to defend your freedom. But you still have a part to play: Find out what our country is all about. Study its history, its purpose. Become conversant about its heroes.

Kentuckians owe it to themselves and their children to shun a lack of knowledge by checking out the information provided by groups such as the Blue-

Jerry's. 4 Great Sandwiches For A Great Lunch

- TRIPLE J-BOY 3 Beef Patties & 2 Slices of Cheese, More Of A Great Sandwich! 4.09
SOURDOUGH FRISCO BURGER Our Tender Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomato, Swiss Or American Cheese On Grilled Sourdough 4.09
TEXAS BURGER Our 4oz. Burger, Charbroiled, Topped With Grilled Onions & Bar-B-Q Sauce 3.59
RED, WHITE & BLEU BURGER A Tender Burger Topped With Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Lettuce & Tomato 4.09

Champ Sandwich Or J-Boy Sandwich With French Fries & Cole Slaw \$5.79
706 N. Maysville Road Mt. Sterling, KY 859-498-1940

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

This is to all citizens of Nicholas County who are against the decision to ban all rides in the courthouse yard. This action by the Fiscal Court will ruin the lives of our Blackberry Festival, a 60 year old tradition and one of the only attractions for our city.

We encourage anyone interested to attend the next Fiscal Court meeting Sept. 11, 5 p.m. in the courthouse.

The Arts Guild, Tourism, Historical Society and the Rotary all plan to attend. Hopefully the local youth church groups, band boosters, athletic boosters, lodges, American Legion and VFW members and all voters can attend.

We need a large attendance to show the members of the court the wishes of the people who elected them.

Larry Mitchell Carlisle

GUEST Continued from Page 4

of their corporate backers. The grassroots election fever created by organized labor-all those who then rallied against the threat of "Big Labor." What "threat" does Labor pose? What they ask of candidates they endorse is that they fight for universal health care, affordable housing, safer workplaces, lower college tuitions and other issues that ordinary people care about. In contrast, GOP candidates have some heavy lifting to do on the campaign trail, justifying to voters the priorities

What chance do Kentuckians have of regaining liberties lost and steming the tide of government encroachment into our lives when we know more about "American Idol" and "The Simpson" than our constitutional rights?

Think I'm overreacting? Doesn't it raise concern when you wake into the void of late-night television to find Jay Leno with camera rolling in our nation's capital, with the Washington Monument in the background, asking people simple questions about basic government - only to find subject ignorance?

One night Leno asked several people: How many U.S. senators represent your state? One guy - a teacher from Atlanta with a group of his students looking on at a state capitol building in Georgia sends 30 senators

to Washington, D.C. I nearly choked. Leno asked several people the same question. No one in the broadcast answered the question correctly.

Only by refusing to waffle in our ignorance can we pass on the blessings of liberty conceived in our courageous founders' noble sacrifice.

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@bips.org. You can read previously published columns at www.bips.org.

Video Shack Trivia Win a FREE Night's Rental at Video Shack Drew Barrymore's godfather is which Oscar-winning movie director? To win: Be the first person to bring this ad into Video Shack with the correct answer and you will win a FREE night's rental!

FREE ADJUSTMENT! Celebrate the Bengals. Wear orange!

Family Chiropractic Dr. Arnold Goldman, D.C. & Dr. Rita Goldman, D.C. 1-800-571-1117 1-866-789-1605 1-502-868-0097 MAYSVILLE CYNTHIANA CROFTON

Table with columns: DECEDENT/WARD, ESTATE, TITLE, ATTORNEY, APPEL DATE. Lists legal proceedings for various individuals.

EAST END FOOD MART New Item! We Now Have: Frozen Expansions \$2.39 One Size Only Coca Cola Fridge Packs \$2.99 Aquafina 24pk 16.9 oz bottles \$5.50

Family Chiropractic Dr. Arnold Goldman, D.C. & Dr. Rita Goldman, D.C. 1-800-571-1117 1-866-789-1605 1-502-868-0097 MAYSVILLE CYNTHIANA CROFTON

Table with columns: DECEDENT/WARD, ESTATE, TITLE, ATTORNEY, APPEL DATE. Lists legal proceedings for various individuals.

GENERAL NEWS

NCHS marching band set to compete

From learning drill, choreography and music on the hot pavement during the summer months to perfecting solos on those cool nights at the home of the mighty Bluegrass State in the fall, the competition season is set to begin for the 2007-2008 Nicholas County High School Marching Band.

On Sat. Sept. 8, at 1 p.m., the band will be making its first stop on the competitive tour at the Nicholas County High School in Mayville at Mason County High School.

The band has been hard at work preparing this year's show entitled "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and expects to hit the field in full force. The line-up for Mason County is steep including 4 state finalist bands from 2006 - Harrison County, Loyd Memorial High School, Mercer County

and Nicholas County. Fans are urged to come out and support the band this season.

Other marching band competitions: Sept. 15 - Madison Central Sept. 22 - Butler Traditional Sept. 29 - Harrison County Oct. 6 - Boone County Oct. 13 - Regional @ Beechwood Oct. 20 - State Semi Finals (Butler Traditional) Final - Papa John's Stadium

Mercury Memories

25 years ago Kentuckians' first hospital-based air ambulance service visited the Nicholas County Hospital Thursday.

Laboring on Labor Day were attorney Joe Frank Conley, his sons Bill and Jock and daughter Kay, as they moved law books and furniture into Mr. Conley's new office on Locust Street.

The Carlisle Marketeer had a bad break when junior fullback George Griffin, of Spycamore Hill, broke his ankle in two places near his leg during practice the week he was to be out all season.

"Macaroni and Cheese diners are only nine cents and the manager's IGA Freshline is 'Doc' Severinon, musical director of the 'Tonight Show' is performing Sept. 18 at Morehead State University."

"Mrs. Mabel Simms Stockdale, 88, of Ewing died Saturday at the Fleming County Hospital. She was a native of Nicholas County and the daughter of the Bourbon Drive-In Theatre.

Five gallons of roof coating is only \$2,000 at Southern States Carlisle Co-Operative. Phone 87.

60 years ago Police Chief Eugene Purvis and Patrolman Herman Curran arrested Evelyn Kelly Friday night on a

battle and one off of victory. When parents complained about how physical the game had been, the kids replied, "We LIKE it that way! It was a blast!"

As much fun as the kids had, we just hope they start learning a little control before one of our parents has a heart attack!

Signing out from Honolulu, Steve Seal

\*\* Steve Seal is a member of the U.S. Military. Reach him at scalfe@mail.com

Scam targets local businesses

A scam artist, operating under the guise of helping the Bluejackets football team, struck Nicholas County last week.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler continues to lead the investigation into a scam of area businesses that believed they were helping to support the Bluejackets.

The scam-involved area businesses purchasing advertisement for a Bluejackets football calendar with proceeds allegedly to be shared with the school.

At least 16 local businesses were successfully targeted. "No one here has ever seen the guy or talked to him," Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools Greg Reil said last week. "It's a shame."

Some reports indicate the perpetrator used the name Vaughn Johnson or R.S. Johnson.

Buckler advises all individuals to be wary of strangers concerning financial undertakings and to report suspicious activity immediately.

To Report A Crime 859-289-3710

HARRISON COUNTY HOME ON 8+ ACRES REAL ESTATE AUCTION Sat. September 15th 10:00 AM 5337 E. Kentucky Hwy 36 Cynthiaana, KY

Warner's Service Center Complete Air Conditioning Service and Filting Summer Coolant Tires Rotated and Balance Oil Change & Filter

Jim Halfhill Auction Group At Rector-Hayden, Realtors

UNIQUELY KENTUCKY! WHITAKER BANK OF CARLISLE

Thank You! Customer Appreciation Picnic

Whitaker Bank of Carlisle wants to show our appreciation to you and our community by inviting you to a very special event

Thursday, September 20 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

at the Kentucky National Guard Armory in Carlisle

Join us for great food, fun, entertainment, including a magician, prizes and much more!

Call by September 13 with the number attending. (859) 289-2251

www.whitakerbank.com MEMBER FDIC

The Carlisle Mercury Players of the Week

Offensive Player Jonathan Mattox Defensive Player Andy McCarty Lineman Jim Conyers