OPINION

Guest Editorial Veloz Viewpoints

The Most Important Question Candidates Are Never Asked

by Cristina Page

The Centers for Disease Control is not the first place one looks to for ideas on conflict resolution but one with one issue that has divided America, it should be. A recent CDC study revealed that between 1990 and 2004 abortion rates plummeted by 50 percent in the US. The researchers suggest one common-sense policy approach is most responsible: access to contraception.

An political campaigns around the country take very different stands on the abortion issue there is no question that this argument will intensify. Add the stakes couldn't be higher. The next president, if history is any measure, is likely to appoint two Supreme Court justices. Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide, currently stands by one vote. The next election will likely decide whether Roe v Wade remains the law of the land. Against this political backdrop, another, potentially more important, reproductive rights conflict may get lost. In fact, the issue many candidates don't want voters to think about is not abortion, but contraception and the media hasn't called them on it.

Access to contraception is the only proven way to reduce unwanted pregnancy rates. It's no wonder that Americans on both sides of the abortion debate overwhelmingly support contraception. Yet few know that more and more candidates vying for their vote don't. Across the states, anti-abortion organizations have added anti-contraception activities to their agenda and expect those they help get elected to office to join in these efforts. Since this issue isn't on most voters' radar, most complacently comply.

Northern Kentucky Right to Life, for instance, will not endorse a candidate unless he or she states that the standard birth control pill is an abortion method (a widely held, but scientifically unfounded, belief within the anti-abortion establishment). Pro-Life Wisconsin asked legislators to ban emergency contraception from state university campuses and opposed efforts to provide rape victims with pregnancy prevention too.

Missouri Right to Life convinced its allies in the state legislature to completely discontinue the state's family planning program. Georgia Right to Life organized its favorite legislators to support a bill that would reclassify all hormonal methods of birth control as abortion. In Virginia, pro-life legislators, taking marching orders from their local anti-contraception groups, successfully defeated legislation that clarified, using scientific evidence, that contraception is not abortion.

In the last eight years, on the federal level, anti-abortion organizations have used their political leverage to undermine the nation's contraception program, Title X. They have appointed anti-contraception ideologues to oversee the program. Not surprisingly, they have under-budgeted it while the number of Americans relying on Title X has swelled. Anti-contraception groups have gummed up the gears of the FDA with like-minded ideologues and have successfully obstructed Americans from gaining greater access to the most effective contraception methods. They were the brains behind the recently leaked HHS proposal that sought to reclassify the most commonly used forms of contraception as abortion.

The questions being posed to candidates on all other critical issues facing the nation today demand cogent and solution-oriented answers. A candidate isn't considered serious about

See QUESTIONS Page 5

The Carlisle Mercury

The Carlisle Mercury (USPS 023-152) is published every Wednesday by The Carlisle Mercury, 218 Locust St, Carlisle, KY 40311. Periodicals Postage Rates are paid at Carlisle, KY 40311.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Carlisle Mercury, PO Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311.

Member of Kentucky Press Association and The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

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.

Hank Bond, Publisher/Editor
Beth Bond, Creative Manager
Melissa Mitchell, Office Manager
Charles Mattox, News Editor
Michael Bond, Marketing Consultant
Dustin Robinson, Creative Design

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.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

Send letters to:
Editor, The Carlisle Mercury
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311

Letters may also be e-mailed to: editor@thecarlislemercury.com. However, if e-mail is used, the sender should call 859-289-6425 to confirm that the letter was received.

HOW TO REACH US

Mailing address: P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311
Phone: 859-289-6425 • Fax: 859-289-4000
Email for news editor@thecarlislemercury.com
Email for advertising: advertising@thecarlislemercury.com
Online at: www.thecarlislemercury.com

DEADLINES: Editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Advertising copy with proof deadline 5 p.m. Monday. Advertising copy without proof, 10 a.m. Tuesday. Classified advertising deadline 10 a.m. Tuesday.

PHOTOS/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 at any time. Please do not submit newspaper clippings or photocopies. Photos may be picked up after they are published in the newspaper. Electronic Advertising must be submitted in pdf format and can be emailed to the above address.

LEGAL ADVERTISING: Font-Arial, Size-7/8. Deadline 5 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 retain this right. We reserve the right to edit any submitted editorial material. The publication reserves the right to use the word Advertising at any time management feels it is appropriate.
Advertisers assume responsibility for advertising content and shall hold without claim The Carlisle Mercury for advertising published. The publisher is not liable for verbal or telephone materials taken with the intent of publishing. Any legal fees, collection costs or related charges will be the responsibility of the advertiser.

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

Boy was I wrong in my hopes that the worse was over with Analise's fever! We took her to the doctor on Tuesday because she was still having fevers. He told us it was most likely viral and to just watch her and if the fever got over 104 degrees to take her to the ER.

She did okay Tuesday night and was somewhat okay during the day on Wednesday but that night around 9 her fever had spiked to 104.3. We called Ben's parents to watch Antonio and we took her to the ER in Fahrump.

I wasn't at all impressed with the hospital here. They took her temperature, which had gone up to 104.8. Then, they gave her some Tylenol and stuck us in a room for 4 hours while the doctor "caught up on some things." When he finally came back he said he agreed with our pediatrician that it was probably viral, gave her amoxicillin and sent us home. NO HELP AT ALL!

By Amy Bond Veloz

So, we took her back to the doctor on Thursday. He had some blood work done and said he would call us with the results. He called on Friday and she seemed to be doing much better. Her blood showed some things were out of whack and ordered a urine test. And let me tell you, neither the blood work nor the catheter for the urine test were any fun...especially for Analise.

Her urine test came back normal so he gave her a shot of antibiotics and sent us home. She has been doing fine since then with no fever at all. Her eating has gotten back to normal and she seems at about 98 percent better. I just hope she stays that way for a long time. I don't like it when my babies are sick!

-ABV-

I don't know how many of you are following the Olympics but I am. I am a huge fan of Michael Phelps. He is a swimmer who is absolutely the closest human I have ever seen to a fish before. When he is in the water he is amazing to watch.

He was on a quest to win 8 Gold medals at one Olympic Games and he has done it. With narrow margins and by several body lengths ahead he has done things that no one but him, his coach and his family believed was possible. I have never seen a 23-year-old with such drive and determination. It was truly amazing to watch.

I also saw amazing showings of sportsmanship from a female American swimmer. Dara Torres, a 41-year-old who was defying odds in a quest to be the fastest swimmer racing the 50-meter freestyle. She got silver by only one one hundredth of a second, but it was in the semifinals that she showed her sportsmanship. One of the swimmers from another team had a problem with her swimsuit. Dara went over to the official when they were lining up to begin the race and told her about the problem. She then told the other swimmers, we are going to wait for her. That swimmer didn't end up qualifying for the finals, but I was still so impressed that she would do that for another swimmer.

In an interview after the race she said, "in the pool they are my competitors, outside the pool they are my friends."

The Olympics really have been fun to watch this year. The kids like to point out the water when they are doing a swimming event. It will be more fun when the kids are old enough to enjoy them.

Until next week, make it a great one!

Amy

Talkin' From The Mountains

Shocking news from Iraq and McCain turns into somebody we don't know

By Dale Greer

The Iraq War is now costing American taxpayers 12 billion dollars a month. Our country is broke. The national debt gets larger and larger while we stay afloat by borrowing money from Communist China.

Meantime, there is another nation that is in great financial shape! This nation has a surplus of somewhere between 60 and 80 billion dollars. Of course, it helps greatly that this lucky country doesn't have to pay for the costly war in Iraq.

What is the name of this rich nation with the huge surplus? Iraq! You heard right. Iraq! The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that from 2005 to present Iraq has earned at least 156 billion dollars in oil revenues and amassed the huge budget surplus mentioned above.

So our nation goes deeper in debt; American citizens pay up to $4.00 a gallon for gasoline while Iraq makes huge profits from gasoline. And to add insult to injury 12 billion a month of our tax money goes to rebuild this nation that could afford to rebuild itself on its astronomical oil revenues.

And we haven't even discussed the worst horror of the Iraq war, the cost in lives of young American men and women. By the way, they continue to die, it just doesn't get reported as much because the media thinks the American public no longer cares what happens in Iraq.

If you are not outraged by the information above, you should be. The actions of Bush and the Republicans in the past 8 years have resulted in a horrible mess. And yet 42 percent of you are fighting change and want to give the Republicans 4 more years? I'm bewildered.

Senator McCain's latest commercial claims that Obama wants to tax families who make only $42,000 a year. It's a lie! In fact, Obama wants to lower taxes for people in that income bracket.

Obama actually proposes to cut taxes for all but the most affluent families. He wants to restore tax rates to pre-Bush levels only for those making over $250,000 a year. Almost all poor and middle class people would get tax cuts from Obama.

In another TV ad, McCain claims that he is for renewable energy. A McCain television commercial shows pictures of wind-driven turbines while the narrator says: "Renewable energy to transform our economy, create jobs and energy independence, that's John McCain."

The Senate has voted on renewable energy legislation eight times in the last year. McCain missed all eight votes. Once he was even in the Senate and didn't bother to leave his office to vote.

John McCain's energy plan doesn't even call for any new federal spending for renewable energy. Fact is, McCain has as much as said he's against it.

McCain has turned into a liar and a fraud. Many who admired him as a man of honesty and integrity feel betrayed. Maverick? No. McCain voted with George W. Bush 90 percent of the time. Man of great integrity? Apparently not.

Congratulations to Michael Phelps, an incredible athlete who has been an inspiration to all children whether they are striving for excellence in sports, academics, music, art—whatever.

The Fall semester has begun at MSU. I hope Michael Phelps has inspired some of our students to work hard and not expect to be given a good grade. The attitude in recent years seems to be "I deserve to be rewarded even if I don't work for it."

Could the attitude of many college students stem from Little League sports programs where they all got trophies or medals? Or maybe it started in High School where their parents berated teachers to raise their grades whether they deserved them or not.

One of my grandchildren came home and tossed his Little League soccer medal in a drawer. "It's not important," he told me, "everybody got one. I didn't deserve it. We didn't even win." I was proud of him for understanding that medals are for achievers.

But if grown-ups keep giving my Grandson undeserved recognition, he might join the young people who think everything should be handed to them on a silver platter. This is not meant to be an indictment of all young people. There are, thank God, many achievers still out there.

There are also many who play their parents, teachers and school administrators to beat the system so they can just glide by. Then when they get to college they are amazed that all of their little games don't work any more and they end up flunking out. That means an average of about a million dollars less in lifetime income and fewer opportunities for a rewarding career.

Michael Phelps thrilled us with his performance in the Olympics. Hopefully he has helped convince other young people like himself that hard work, perseverance and fair play is the way to succeed and that nobody owes them a medal, or praise—or a grade—unless they earn it.

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 @roadrunner.com

4th District Report

Kentuckians Struggle While Congress Vacations

By Geoff Davis 4th District Congressman

It has been more than two weeks since Speaker Nancy Pelosi adjourned the House of Representatives for August and part of September without acting on solutions to the energy crisis. On Wednesday, August 13th, I returned to Washington, D.C. to join my Republican colleagues on the House floor and demand a vote on energy solutions. While in Washington, I shared some of the many stories Kentuckians have sent me about how high gas prices are affecting our families, jobs and communities.

Families in the Fourth District are suffering. A fellow veteran from my hometown of Hebron wrote about her struggles to afford gas and food: "I am concerned for America...Gas prices are so high and everything is rising." A constituent from Glencoe wrote: "It is sad when you go to the store and worry about what you can afford to buy because you have to make a decision between eating or filling up your tank. It didn't use to be this way." A woman from Covington told me about the strain those high gas prices have put on her family trucking business: "Even routine maintenance and minor repairs seem like an extravagant expense when you have to consider fuel costs."

Our local papers are consistently publishing articles that describe the steps our communities have been forced to take in order to make ends meet. School districts have raised lunch prices and cut bus routes. In some areas, our police forces have reduced patrols and our fire departments have stopped responding to all but the most critical medical emergencies. Businesses large and small have been forced to lay off employees and family budgets have been pushed to the limit as the price of food and other basic necessities continues to skyrocket.

We need American energy for the American people and we need it now. As a constituent from Florence wrote, "We have all the technology and experience along with the natural resources we need to be self sufficient and become the old America I love, but...[we are] dependent on the countries that hate us." We must stop sending billions of dollars to unstable foreign regimes; instead, it is time to invest in our own infrastructure, create more American jobs and build a future for our children.

If we are serious about lowering the cost of energy and providing relief to American families, we must surpass partisan politics and develop a comprehensive energy strategy that will efficiently use our domestic resources in the short term while laying the groundwork to make alternative energy sources clean, safe and affordable for the future. I will continue to urge Speaker Pelosi to call a special session of Congress so we can finally have this debate and a vote on new energy solutions.

Again, I encourage you to send me your gas receipts along with a letter explaining how these high energy costs are affecting you. I will personally deliver your stories and receipts to Speaker Pelosi's office so that she can see firsthand how the people of the Fourth District of Kentucky are suffering. Send your receipts and letters to:

Congressman Geoff Davis, 277 Buttermilk Pike, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017.

OPINION

Steve's Report

By Steve Scalf

While visiting my parents in Idaho, we learned of a tragic accident that took the life of a neighbor's son. A youth group had decided to go on "tree last outing" to the lake before heading back to school. While they were playing in the water a jet-ski operator lost control, crossed into the swimming area and struck the neighbor boy in the head, killing him.

I do not know this family personally, but I felt sincere sympathy for their loss, recalling the heartache of losing a brother and a sister. Because of the boy's traumatic head injury, I was reminded even more powerfully of my sister, Mary, who was also visiting my parents while we were there.

When Mary was little, she was one of those adorable children that everyone wanted to pick up and hug. But she was also one of those children who said whatever came to their mind - and in a very loud voice. This combination often led to embarrassing situations - like the time an elderly gentleman scooped Mary up in his arms and asked her why she was such a cutie. She replied, "Your breath stinks!"

Mary was blessed with both beauty and intelligence. But she also had a very stubborn, rebellious streak and a restless, discontented heart that got in the way of her finding any real happiness in life. She became very negative, focusing on all the imagined wrongs and injustices that had ever happened to her. She didn't believe us when we told her that those sorts of things happen to everybody; the rest of us simply got over it and moved on with our lives.

Most teenagers eventually grow out of the stage when their parents don't know anything. Normally by the time they reach 25, Mom and Dad have miraculously wizened up; their advice is once more worth listening to. Mary, however, never accepted this. She refused to acknowledge that her parents might have been right when they told her that if you want good things in life, you have to make good choices. Mary kept doing whatever she wanted while looking for a way to somehow avoid the consequences.

Still, the rest of the family never gave up hope for Mary. We continued to love and accept her, in spite of our wishes that she would someday come to her senses. Finally, it seemed like our years of prayer on her behalf were starting to pay off. Mary managed to get a decent job and appeared to be taking more responsibility for her life.

Then one Saturday morning in early November 1989, Mary decided to make the two-and-a-half hour drive to visit our parents. Even though it was late in the year, it was a beautiful, sunny day. The winter snows weren't yet so the roads were clear. It should have been a safe trip. But about the midway point, where the highway narrowed down to two lanes, an elderly man driving the opposite direction drifted into Mary's lane, meaning to make a left-hand turn, and struck her vehicle head-on.

Mary was thrown forward, her forehead smashing into the windshield causing severe trauma to the brain. Her injuries were so serious that she had to be transported to the nearest trauma center by helicopter.

My unit was in the middle of a major training exercise when the Red Cross relayed the message about Mary's accident. The doctor did not expect her to survive more than a few days and my parents requested my presence. The Army got me back home that evening and Cindy and I left immediately to be by Mary's side in the hospital.

After a few days, even though Mary remained in a coma, her condition stabilized. I had to return to my military duties but made arrangements to visit again every three or four weeks. I would sit by Mary's side, holding her hand or stroking her hair as I talked to her, sharing memories about all the things we did together growing up. I don't know if it helped, but I watched as Mary continued to improve, gradually coming out of her coma about six weeks later.

Except we didn't quite get the same Mary back. Her brain only recovered to the level of her early teens. She also suffered frequent seizures, each attack reversing her recovery by several weeks. Additionally, Mary couldn't tell the difference between imagination and reality. Her damaged brain would try to recall fragments of memories and her imagination would fill in the gaps. Then she would fixate on these events as if they were reality. Every time I tried to spend time with her, she would get angry and start yelling at me for always being mean to her. One time she was carrying on about some awful trick I had played on her. After a few minutes we realized she was actually remembering an episode from a television show.

Over the years it became harder and harder to spend time with Mary. I grew weary of her yelling about how I had supposedly treated her so badly, and it became easier to just stay away.

During this past visit, however, as I witnessed the grief of this other family who lost their son to a traumatic head injury I couldn't help comparing their loss to Mary's accident. When the boy's mother said how she wished she had just one more chance to take her boy into her arms and tell him how much she loves him, I realized that with Mary I still have that opportunity.

So throughout our visit, I made it a point to spend more time with my sister, to sit beside her and talk with her and to show her that I still care. I don't know if it made much of a difference to her, but it meant the world to me.

I still love you, Mary.

Until next time,
Steve Scalf

**** Steve Scalf recently retired from the U.S. Military. Reach him at slscalf@msn.com**

County Attorney issues warning

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

Nicholas County Attorney Dawn Letcher is cautioning all Nicholas Countians, especially senior citizens, to be aware that individuals posing as officials with the social security administration are in the area and may be looking for victims of a scam operation

"We had an incident occur last week in which a lady from the Headquarters area pulled into her driveway and she was met by two well-dressed individuals who said they were from the social security administration," Letcher explained. "The two men were in a white four-door car and one of the men assisted with carrying in groceries."

Letcher said that the two gentlemen said they needed to take measurements of each room in the house.

"I think they were just looking for valuables," Letcher said. "There are many scam artists who operate throughout the year and many prey on our elderly citizens."

Letcher encourages all citizens to pay particular attention to strangers and strange vehicles and notify authorities if suspicion is aroused.

"Don't take any chances," Letcher said. "Our state has seen a dramatic increase in forced home invasions."

QUESTIONS
Continued from Page 4

the economy without answers on how to create new jobs. Who would be labeled pro-environment without a position on fighting noxious emissions? No discussion of escalating gas prices is complete without a candidate explaining his or her position on energy alternatives too. But, oddly, no anti-abortion candidates are ever asked about their position on contraception despite the fact that their views on the matter often differ dramatically from what the public wants and what works.

As we teeter on the precipice of reversing Roe v Wade, candidates' positions on contraception and pregnancy prevention are more important than ever.

What's most frightening in light of the precariousness of the right to choose, is how closely tethered it is to the right to contraception. A candidate's position and, whenever possible, legislative record on ensuring contraceptive access should be closely examined in elections at every level.

Candidates should be asked plainly, "Do you support contraception?" And "If so, what have you done and what will you do to ensure access to it?"

In 2006, soon after South Dakota passed a near total ban on abortion, I was scheduled to debate Jim Sedlak, Vice President of the American Life League.

Before we took the stage I asked if he was disappointed by how "limited" the near total abortion ban was. He replied without irony, "Was it the perfect law? No. Would we have liked it to ban contraception? Yes." It's not that those opposed to contraception are unwilling to answer the question, it's simply that no one ever thinks to ask.

Page is the author of How the Pro-Choice Movement Saved America: Freedom, Politics and the War on Sex and spokesperson for BirthControlWatch.org -

You Don't Know When You'll Need Us... And We'll Be There For You!

Coal Truck Insurance

Lowest Rates in the State of Kentucky!

CALL HERITAGE-MCGEHEE INSURANCE

1-888-333-4471

BUTLER RECYCLING AND CORE

Copper - Aluminum - Brass - Catalytic Converters
Batteries - Transmissions - Stainless Steel

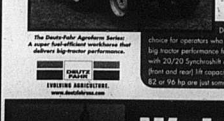
We pay the highest prices for your scrap!
Trucks available for pickups
call 606-759-8863

for question or pricing contact:
Jimmy Butler or Brad Miller

Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Closed - Major Holidays

ph: 606.759.8863
5148 US HWY 62, Maysville, KY
butlerrecycling@maysvilleky.net

0% for 3 years for qualified buyers



Meet Agrofarm: Deutz-Fahr's newest mid-size tractor — cost-efficient, fuel-efficient, tough as nails

The Deutz-Fahr Agrofarm Series: A super fuel efficient tractor that delivers big-tractor performance.

Deutz-Fahr's newest utility tractor series is the right choice for operators who want a high horsepower utility tractor that offers big tractor performance for day-in/day-out work. 40K- or 50K transmission with 20/20 Synchroshift or Powershuttle; up to 13,600- and 3,960-pound front and rear lift capacity; 4-cylinder, liquid-cooled Deutz engines with 82 or 96 hp are just some of the features you'll find on Agrofarm.

CHIUTA FARM EVERLASTING AGRICULTURE. www.deutzfahrusa.com

Walnut Knoll
FARMS & SUPPLY
606-849-9240
259 Windsor Drive • Flemingsburg, KY 41041

TWIN PIN LANES
2ND ANNUAL
2008 AMATEUR TALENT STAR SEARCH ENTRY FORM

To Enter the 2008 Twin Pin Lanes Talent Star Search you must complete this form and submit it along with your $15 entry fee to: Twin Pin Lanes, Special Events-Amateur Talent Star Search, 150 Foster Street, Flemingsburg, KY 41041

Name of Performer: _____
Check Category you are entering:
Invidual (Age 20 & over) ____ Teen (Age 13-19) ____
Child (Age 12 & under) ____

You will be singing 1 to 2 songs at the judging elimination on August 23rd, 2008. We will pick the Top 3 in each category to be in the Final Judging September 6th at the Homestead Jamboree Show at Twin Pin Lanes in Flemingsburg, KY.

The following have read the rule & by signature verify that they understand and accept the terms. NO REFUND on entry fees. (Parent or Guardian must sign for a minor.)

Name (Print) : _____ Signature: _____
Contact (Name): _____ Phone: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

For Information call Twin Pin Lanes, (606)-845-0407 or Carl Storey, Entertainment Coordinator at (606)-748-3292. Producers and Talent Scouts are invited and welcome!

In Each Category Winners Will Receive
$100 First Prize, $75 Second Prize and $50 Third Prize!