

OPINION

Guest Editor: Bond's Broadcast

Spending our tax dollars sensibly

When Lyndon Johnson managed to balance the national budget in the midst of building the Great Society, I have a special notion of turning off lights around the White House. Says Erik Lewis, a member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and a geography instructor at Morehead State University...

"Never mind the blueprints drawn, contracts bid, agencies shuffled, files packed, furniture moved, space rented, and money spent," he continues. "Caught in the midst of upgrading his own facilities while preaching the virtues of budget austerity, Williams cut his losses, despite sunk costs."

"I can understand the political sense of Williams' decision," Lewis adds. "I can't understand the comment that Williams made when he was asked about the renovations in the face of such a bleak budget. He said 'You're talking about people who you consider the poor, but I don't accept the premise that they're cutting anything to the bone.'"

"These comments are derogatory and show a lack of empathy and respect," Lewis states.

"In Williams' hometown of Burkeville, almost a quarter of the families, including more than a third of children, live below the poverty line. In nearby Albany, about 30 percent of families and 50 percent of children are living in poverty, according to the Census Bureau. So what interests is Williams acting on when he cuts health and family services? How many of these families will be pushed further back as the school programs are cut, class sizes increased, and health care services are shut down, and tuition hikes make college even more remote?"

"What kind of vision of Kentucky is this?" Lewis asks. "Responsible politicians lead by sending signals that offer constituents a clear vision for the future," Lewis concludes.

"The author is Erik Lewis, a member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and a geography instructor at Morehead State University."

Book's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

I would be remiss not to mention that Jason worked for me at The Times in Plattsburgh. He did some reporting and took some photos as well.

Maybe that's why he has such a prolific ability to contact such solid, well-recognized names. Yes, sure, that's Jason. It just came to me - I had to find some way to claim credit, if only partial, for your success.

I found it quite humorous when Jason was first brought to the pulpit to speak and he began his sermon recalling advice from his training that he should talk at a rate comparable to that of a chicken.

When we walked up to be announced, along with his lovely wife Linda, he looked to the back in search of a familiar face but his eyes caught my face as I stared at him. He said that mental message to 'look back here, Jason.'

I think Jason would have

lied to have smile and waved but restraint contained his outburst for he is now the Pastor of the church.

He spoke and said in reference to the advice given to him that, "He did know some of the people for new assignments, some for a few months and some, well for what seemed like forever."

Yes, folks that's us. We're the ones that had to have Jason, Linda and the rest of their family here.

A week from today, July 9, Amy, Ben, Analise and Antonio will be here in Carlisle. I'll go pick them up at the airport and we'll get to see those beautiful babies and oh yes, Ben and Amy too.

But here's the real special part. On July 13, the twins that were born at the Methodist Church at the Methodist Church will take place on the same day.

It will probably be an emotional day for me as well. I remember the day that Amy, Beth and Carol were all baptized by the late Rev. Jim Kemp right there in that church in Russell, Mead Memorial.

It was an amazing day. That same Sunday here at our house will have Sade's

Steve's Report

By Steve Clark

Shrimp... Squirt... Pickle... Runt... Midget... Punk... Those were my nicknames during my junior high school years. I was extremely short for my age. At the end of 8th grade I will weigh five feet tall yet and only weighed about 90 lbs. I didn't make it for those managers who had to admit that I was a lot shorter than everybody else.

When we were here at 1986-1992 Rev. Walter Appleton was assigned to this church. Walter had been the minister at Mead Memorial when I was in high school.

Jason's assignment and Walter's assignment make me think of some small, er, at least to me.

It is indeed a small world out there.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

Legislative Perspective

By Dickie Clark

Last week, both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly unanimously passed House Bill 1, the first step in ensuring the long-term financial stability of the state's employee pension systems.

Solvency is not a simple goal when you consider that our state retirement systems now over \$20 billion unfunded future retirement obligations. Those commitments (with the exception of annual cost-of-living increases) are protected by irrevocable contracts with state workers and must be met - no exceptions. Without meaningful reform, some say the system could break in as little as 14 years. That is why we had to act before the fiscal year begins on July 1 to pass a pension bill that begins to make meaningful corrections to the fund system.

House Bill 1 focused on the twin pillars of long-term financial stability and fairness to state employees, teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public servants.

Few changes were made to the retirement plan (current employees and current retirees). However, newly hired state employees will work longer before they can retire with full or partial pension and health care benefits.

We also addressed the concerns of local governments struggling to pay their existing obligations to the system. Necessary corrections to the fund system, effective in the future, if the Good Lord is willing.

General Hood appealed again and again for the most to the right, but to give more confidence to the attack, he was reminded that it would be a good idea to be of only partial use for the rest of his life.

Robertson would also be seriously, that day.

The Union left would hold the ground at Little Round Top. Though they were temporarily expelled from the Devil's Den.

The battle would officially end in a decisive Union victory the next day.

Union casualties were 22,059 (3,155 killed, 14,521 wounded, 5,389 captured or missing). Confederate casualties were estimated at about 28,000 with approximately 5,000 killed.

Hood and Robertson would live to fight other days, but those are other stories, dear reader, and will be considered in the future, if the Good Lord is willing.

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Veloz Viewpoints

By Veloz Viewpoints

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a good week. My goodness, my kids are growing so fast and becoming so independent. It's almost time for the time is going by with them. They do something new every day it seems. And they seem to get smarter by the second.

One of my favorite things that they do now is that they run. They just walk to places and then they run. It definitely makes it more difficult to keep with them, but they are so cute when they are doing it.

When they are doing it, they run to the kitchen, they run everywhere. They run down the hall to their rooms, they run to the kitchen, they run away from us when we talk about changing their diapers, they run in circles in the living room. I think they are preparing now for the 2008 Olympics.

There is one thing that

of the bedroom and they'll be in their high chairs eating. Once they are up and they see, Hi! Or, Hi! come from outside and they'll run to me and say, Hi! I'm so proud of it it is always easy to walk with a big grin on their faces. It really is so precious. I can't wait to see Sade, as she was a tiny bug the last time I saw her. I think that Evan has probably grown two feet since I saw her. They are in for a wonderful year.

They grow and change so much almost daily. I have seen so for most of my family members. I've seen my son since Christmas, they are in for a surprise when they see how different they are.

I just can't wait to come home!

Until next week, make it a great one!

Amy

The Carlisle Mercury

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Takin' From the Mountains

By Cheyve Chase and Lloyd Bridges

I was the host of a Talk Show at WAVE Television in Louisville back in the '70s and early '80s. The hour-long show ran five days a week and we tried to have some one famous appear every day, preferably someone nationally or internationally famous.

It was less expensive for us to go to the rich and famous than it was for us to bring them to Louisville so we would take them to LA and New York on occasion. We usually worked off of the Universal Studio Lot, when we were in Hollywood.

I was interviewing Dick Van Dyke on the Universal lot one beautiful sunny day and he was in Los Angeles. There are lots of sunny days in LA, and lots of money to break out the sun.

A bunch of tourists were watching the taping of the show from a roped off section. I was about halfway through my interview with the famous star when I heard the voice of the "Dick Van Dyke" show, "Sorey, Cheyve Chase told me, 'you don't know how much I idolize Mister Van Dyke. 'Hey, you can't go in there!"

I looked up to see someone running toward us with two Security Guards chasing him. Dick Van Dyke and I both stopped and just watched the spectacle unfolding in front of us.

Takin' From the Mountains

By Cheyve Chase and Lloyd Bridges

"It's okay," I told him, "if you'll grant me an interview, all will be forgiven." He smiled and nod and did an interview.

Interesting enough, Cheyve Chase was also interviewed by Van Dyke a little too much. Like Van Dyke, Chase later became a serious alcohol and drug problem.

I met a legendary movie star because, like Cheyve, he walked in front of our cameras as while we were filming, but he did it accidentally.

I was interviewing actor Susan Clark on the Universal Studio Lot during another trip to LA when I heard one of our crew members yell, "Hey, don't walk in front of the cameras, we're filming!"

I looked up to see the back of a man who was doing a little dance in front of the cameras trying to decide which way to go to get out of the way. He turned around. It was legendary movie and television star, Lloyd Bridges.

"It's okay," I told the young man, "you don't know how much I idolize Mister Bridges. 'Hey, you can't go in there!"

I looked up to see someone running toward us with two Security Guards chasing him. Dick Van Dyke and I both stopped and just watched the spectacle unfolding in front of us.

Heaven

Continued from Page 2

field of battle and his arm was prepared to be amputated, but he finally talked the surgeons into sparing it. It would heal, but would be of only partial use for the rest of his life.

Robertson would also be seriously, that day.

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Notice

The Nicholas County Courthouse will be closed on Friday, July 2, 2008 in observance of the Independence Holiday. It will re-open on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Larry Tinchor County Judge/Executive

Notice

The Nicholas County Convenience Recycling Center will be closed on Friday, July 2, 2008 in observance of the Independence Holiday. It will re-open on Monday, July 7, 2008.

Larry Tinchor County Judge/Executive

Carlisle United Methodist Youth

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