

OPINION

Guest Editorial Bond's Broadcast

The People's Right to Know - Right Now!

By J.T. Jerry Miller Former Commissioner of Kentucky's Department of Parks

You are a huge basketball fan. Your team is playing in the tournament finals. You've used your hard earned money to buy tickets for your family... not to mention the expense of the popcorn the stands have to watch the game through a foggy window.

You can't really see the action, so you have to rely on a P.A. announcer who will give you updates on what's going on - as he sees it. If you ask, someone will give you a printed game summary after it ends or you can wait for tomorrow's newspaper so you can read what a sports reporter thought about the game. Would you consider your own a well-informed fan? Would you get the impression that someone doesn't really want you to know everything about the game?

Are they afraid of what you might say about the coach or players on a radio call-in show you may not realize it, but that's exactly what happens daily in the halls of state government. You, the taxpayers, have paid the price of admission. Every day, money is spent behind the foggy window of your right to know.

You can read the newspapers, listen to the radio, or watch TV to see what other people think is important. You can even see an Open Records Request to find out how much or how little is being spent on something you are interested in. That is, if you don't mind paying someone to mail you the information or using some of that \$4 per gallon gas to travel to Frankfort.

Kentucky's government bureaucracy and other insiders such as political consultants, lobbyists, industry PAC directors, union leaders, elected and appointed officials, like it the way we are ever going to change in Frankfort, it will take the involvement of truck drivers, nurses, farmers, students, soccer moms, seniors and anyone else with an interest in fixing what we live in government.

Twenty-four states have passed "transparency" laws. These states and even the Federal Government (www.fedtransparency.gov) provide 24x7x365 Internet access to a searchable database of contracts, grants or expenditures. Today's technology provides the perfect suit for citizens to see how their tax money is being spent when they want to know it.

People have grown disgusted with wasteful pork-barrel spending and plain inefficiency. We must eliminate the secrecy that surrounds government spending. Let the people see how government is spending their money and then you will see responsibility return to government.

Whether you believe in less government or believe that more money should be spent on education and social services, we can all agree that reducing wasteful government spending is in everyone's best interests.

Complaints and errors. I can tell you that over the course of publishing six or seven newspapers a week it's almost impossible to do everything right.

In the past couple of weeks we had the same names in an obituary. We had the names of two prominent officials in a story and we have left out one on the P.A. announcer who will give you updates on what's going on - as he sees it.

The crush of material we receive in a week's time at most always leaves us short in one paper or the other. It's unique that I have been told by seven or eight people in a week's time that the article they brought in - regardless of the content - was the most important thing we had received that week.

I've always tried to make sure that we put as many things in the paper as possible, but sometimes just isn't possible to get everything included. To that end we have tried

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a good week. What a Sunday we had. I love long weekends! Ben had Monday off and we were able to do more on Sunday because of it. We didn't have to worry about rushing home and getting things done around the house to begin the workday the next day. It was so nice.

Sunday morning we got up and went to church. We were a little late because we forgot something we needed to take with us to Las Vegas after and since we weren't planning on going back home before going to Vegas, we decided it would be okay to be a little late.

After church we were off to Vegas. We were going to a birthday party for Ben's cousin. The party started at 10, but since we didn't want to miss out on the party during the drive, we had Monday off and we were able to do more on Sunday because of it.

We went in and walked around. We let the kids walk a lot holding our hands. It was a lot of fun. They had a bunch of different animals and even had a petting zoo. It was a lot of fun. They had a bunch of different animals and even had a petting zoo.

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very hard to put things in as we receive them regardless of the time table - on a space available basis.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the folks who have written me personally or sent letters to the respective newspapers to convey their thoughts and concerns.

I have tried to make note of the items you have pointed out to me as have those who work at the papers. We have tried to sit down and make priority lists of what our coverage plan should be. We've continued to diligently work on this. I know it's never really going to be easy but we've assured we're working on it.

In one of the letters I was admonished for the errors written in my column. This was for nearly everything I have included re-

cently. The kids will have a blast going through it together! And we'll left the petting zoo we headed to the birthday party. We had a great time visiting with a lot of Ben's family but there was a lot of swimming pool and yard and it was difficult to keep the kids away from it.

It's so nice to have the kids before we would have taken some swim and gotten in to the pool with them, but it was just too cold to get in the pool.

We left the party and headed home. We had a great time at the petting zoo. I see us going back there several times this summer. Especially in the early fall when Sadie Jo and Aunt Beth come to visit.

And the more people I know about my work, my family, but to be completely honest with you, although I was certainly passionate about my work, my work was never really my passion. Part of me was always thinking about "after the Army," when I would be able to do the things I really wanted to do - to chase after my dreams.

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And so, for another week, thanks and thirty...

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Steve's Report

Some people are fortunate enough to have careers doing what they love best in life. My oldest daughter, Katie, is an artist who loves working with computers.

When she got a job as a graphic artist, she was so excited about her work that she would come home at the end of the day bubbling over with enthusiasm about everything she had done at work that day. And then, after having fun every day at work, at the end of the week she actually brought home a paycheck! Imagine getting paid to have fun. The combination of loving her work and getting paid to do it created a cycle. The pay was an incentive that made work even more enjoyable. As a result, she became even more passionate about her work, doing an even better job.

This would lead to bonuses, which would motivate her to do even more... the cycle feeds itself. Not everybody is as lucky as Katie, however. I certainly wasn't. Don't misunderstand me. Serving in the Army has been an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. It has strengthened my character and helped me to grow beyond my former limitations. It has been an honor to serve my country.

But my basic plan was to build a top-of-the-line system. I immediately opening for a second remote control operator. Must be able to simultaneously watch the basketball play-offs, two different episodes of "Law & Order," and the movie of the week on TNT.

So I turned to a more practical hobby: building computer systems. You might ask, "Why build your own system when you can buy a new computer for \$300?" Actually, by recycling

the latest high-numbered version of Windows and spent the next two days dealing with "technical support experts" all over the world - literally. No matter who I spoke with, however, they all said the same thing: "Sorry for the inconvenience, but we do not support that version of Windows at this time. But rest assured that we are doing everything we can to find a solution." I could tell what they really meant was: "Don't hold your breath... and by the way, you're an idiot for buying the latest version of Windows."

Maybe something involving a couch, a television, and a remote control... Signing out from Honolulu Steve Scalf

Steve Scalf is a member of the U.S. Military. Reach him at fiscal@msn.com

Microsoft doesn't really care whether you know what those numbers mean. We have already been conditioned to believe that the bigger the number is the better the product. It's like ordering at a fast-food restaurant. You order the 32-bit size and they ask "Would you like to super-size to 64-bit for just \$5 more?" You see 64 instead of 32 and think you're getting twice the software for only \$5 extra and think, "Wow! What a bargain!"

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But it didn't feel like such a bargain after I loaded up

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Veloz Viewpoints

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Talkin' From The Mountains

Why are Americans so angry?

The number of people I know-nice people-who now spread lies and hatred, additions me. The ugly venom that has spit out in conversations, on radio and television, in E-mails and on Blogs makes me ashamed. Racist and bigoted opinions being voiced in the name of democracy go against everything our nation stands for.

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4th District Report

House Passes National Defense Authorization Act in Time for Memorial Day

The annual celebration of Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to honor the lives of the dedicated men and women who have served and sacrificed for the security of our nation. The week before Memorial Day 2008, the House of Representatives voted on several pieces of legislation focused on veterans, our troops and their families.

The bill includes a 3.9% pay raise for all members of the armed forces. This will continue efforts to reduce the pay discrepancy between the uniformed service members and the private sector. The bill also provides titration sup-

port for military spouses and contributes \$60 million to help local education agencies that work with children of military families. The NDA includes an important provision that I have been working on for several years to equalize disability pay for reservists (including members of the National Guard) who are wounded in action.

In 2006, I met a severely injured member of the Kentucky Army National Guard at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I was stunned when this great American, whose home is in the Fourth District, told me about a disparity between what reservists and members of the active armed forces receive

disability retirement pay after being wounded in action and deemed to be permanently disabled. My friend wasn't doing even though the facts and a few seconds away. He doesn't understand that he asked him to do this not to defend the truth.

Instead of going to non-partisan groups, my friend fired back that he was the same Iraq War vet, an internet proponent of the extreme right-wing

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