

The following editorials were broadcast during third quarter, addressing the topics listed. Each ran on WDRB's 4 PM and 10 PM news on the date indicated, in addition to twice during the following day's Fox in the Morning between 5 and 9 AM.

Each also aired three times – between 5P and 11P, during commercials breaks - on the date indicated on WMYO.

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Teachers Union Needs To Learn a Few Things (7/29/08)

Last month, the Jefferson County Public School system didn't renew the contracts of 18 teachers because of significant misconduct and other deficiencies.

Predictably, the Jefferson County Teachers Association insisted all these people did a *great* job and letting them go was a huge injustice.

But after seeing court documents filed by the school system, it's hard to understand if the Teachers Association has any standards whatsoever.

The unacceptable behavior included: bringing guns to school, having students spend the night in the teacher's home, using indecent language and plenty more -- all of which pretty much define the term "irresponsible."

But no matter how widely varied and well-documented these charges were, the Teachers' Association has vowed to dispute every one.

Let's be clear. What the Teachers' Association is really saying here is: "Regardless of how badly you do your job, as long as you're one of us, we'll work to help you keep it."

A union *should* jump in when clear rights violations have occurred. But its *real* goal should be to foster excellence among its membership -- not just collect dues, justify mediocrity and defend incompetence.

In my opinion, these lousy teachers should have spent more time worrying about how to teach children properly when they had a chance, rather than playing the victim in court now.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

A Bad Lesson in Bribery (8/26/08)

Since apparently attendance at Brooks Elementary has fallen to unacceptable levels, the people who run the Bullitt County school have decided to sweeten the pot with rewards for attendance like t-shirts, parties and even bicycles.

I don't know about you, but when my kids were in school, they concentrated on what they'd get if they *didn't* attend classes. Scoring extra "treats" just for showing up wasn't part of the deal.

I know Brooks isn't the first school to resort to this pitiful act of desperation. But that doesn't make it any less ridiculous.

School is *supposed* to prepare young people for the real life they'll encounter when they *aren't* so young anymore. And one of the most important lessons they can learn is that you don't get rave reviews in the adult world simply by doing what's already expected of you.

When mothers and fathers make it clear to their kids that school attendance is a requirement and not an option, it's amazing how those desks fill right up. But when that kind of parental involvement is missing, *no* school administration is capable of making up the difference, no matter what kinds of bribes are on the table.

Kids should understand that education is its *own* reward. And if they don't, educators would certainly accomplish more by working with parents to find out why, rather than wasting time coming up with cheap substitutes.

But what do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb and that's my...Point of View.

Back to School – Sooner is Better (8/19/08)

I've heard a lot of complaints about school schedules that have students returning from summer vacation before mid-August. People say it's too hot, it disrupts their vacation schedule, kids need more time to relax, and so on.

But I think the current set-up is much better than the old days when most of us didn't get back to the classroom until after Labor Day.

Why? Because education – especially in the early years – depends upon learning things, *retaining* that knowledge and then *building* on it to reach the next level. And those long three-month summer vacations of my youth tended to put a real dent in the “retention” part. When fourth-grade teachers have to spend weeks just getting their class back to where they were at the end of *third* grade, it's tough to make progress.

Air conditioning has made the “It's too hot” argument irrelevant. There are still plenty of “mini-vacations” peppered throughout the school year to give students the down time they need. And as for family vacations, two months should provide a large enough window for anyone who plans ahead.

Education should be every family's *number one* priority when it comes to their children - not a nuisance to be worked into every *other* schedule. And if going back to school a few weeks earlier helps our children learn better, I'm all for it.

But what do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

A License to Bike? (08-05-08)

When it comes to bicycles sharing the road with cars, both groups have plenty of gripes.

Cyclists say they risk injury or death because some drivers don't respect their equal right to be on the road.

But some drivers say many cyclists demand all the *rights* of the road, but constantly break the *rules* -- running red lights, failing to signal and riding between traffic lanes.

Both sides make valid points. But this weekend I noticed an online debate on the subject that I found interesting.

One person said he'd be more willing to share the roads with bicyclists if they helped *pay* for the roads -- something they don't currently do since they don't pay gas taxes. Another replied that if more drivers took up cycling, *they* wouldn't have to pay gas taxes either.

But even if we *all* ditched our cars in favor of bicycles, we'd still need roads -- which would still have to be paid for.

So why not register and license any bike that's going to be used on public thoroughfares, and require them to display a license plate? The license fees -- like gas taxes -- could go toward road maintenance. *And* reckless cyclists would be a lot more accountable since they could be more easily reported.

Drivers will always be responsible for exercising caution around bikers. But cyclists also need to do *their* part. And maybe this would be a step in that direction.

But what do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Road Rage Roulette (7/24/08)

By now, everyone already knows about the road rage dispute in Jeffersonville that led to the shooting of a motorcyclist and the indictment of the driver who fired the shot.

I wasn't there and could never know what was honestly going through the heads of these people, so I don't have any answers as to why this incident happened. But I do have questions.

Like:

Had the driver of the car been a large *man* instead of a woman, how likely is it the motorcyclist would have even gotten off his bike to confront him?

Had things been reversed, and a large *black* man had been angrily approaching a car driven by a *white* woman who then shot *him*, which one would be facing charges?

And how many of us unknowingly come within a whisker of finding ourselves in the same kind of tragic situation every day?

Think about it – in 2008 America you really have to be crazy to get belligerent with a total stranger who's already demonstrated unpredictable, erratic behavior behind the wheel. Within the past year alone, two area drivers have learned that the hard way by getting shot for their trouble.

Yes, the roads *are* full of irresponsible, dangerous boneheads. But “getting even” is the knee-jerk response of a child – not the rational behavior of an adult.

Best to shrug it off, let the police deal with the idiots (and they will, eventually), and go on with your life.

That's a lot better than going on without it.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Same Old Arguments in New Albany (7/15/08)

New Albany's City Council is considering a ban on all smoking in public places, and last week, they gave citizens the chance to offer their opinions on the subject.

Predictably, opponents of a ban trotted out the tired old arguments about how such a law would put restaurants and bars out of business and how there's no evidence that second-hand smoke harms anyone. But what will it take for these people to finally realize their contentions hold no water?

We heard the same scare stories about the economic disaster that would strike *Louisville* bar and restaurant owners if patrons couldn't smoke in *their* establishments. But where are these devastated businesses? It seems to me dozens of new ones are opening every month.

And as for the nonsense about there being no proof that second-hand smoke has damaging health effects, well...yes there is. Plenty of it.

Refusing to read any of it – or just irrationally dismissing it as a lie doesn't change the truth. Smokers in an enclosed space risk the health of everyone in that space. And they not only have no right to do so, they have a responsibility not to.

So I encourage the New Albany City Council to keep moving ahead, and join all the other sensible communities that have already taken this much-needed action.

But what do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

“Just For Kids” – A Campaign Worth Supporting (9/25/08)

On Thursday, Kosair Children’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Foundation and Norton Healthcare officials announced a \$208 million “Just for Kids” Campaign to benefit Kosair Children’s Hospital – the first major philanthropic campaign in the hospital’s history.

This is big news -- because if Louisville truly wants to attain world-class status, ensuring its citizens have access to the finest medical care possible without leaving home has to be at, or near, the top of the “to do” list. And this campaign represents a giant commitment toward making that happen.

For many generations, Kosair Children’s Hospital has provided the children of Kentucky and Southern Indiana the best health care available without regard to their families' ability to pay. Its dedication to excellence has been unsurpassed.

But the cost of advanced research and new state of the art technology has never been higher. And competition for the world’s best specialists is fierce. Meeting these challenges can only be done through a united effort by the entire community.

So I urge everyone – individuals and businesses alike – to do everything in their power to become part of this effort. There’s no reason our children should have to go elsewhere for their critical medical needs. And with your help, they won’t have to.

I’m Bill Lamb, and that’s my...Point of View.

Time to Enter the 21st Century (9/3/08)

It's hard to understand New Albany Mayor Doug England's veto of a city anti-smoking ordinance.

Here's an invitation to Mr. England -- and the New Albany City Council members who have meekly agreed not to try to override his veto: Please do your city a favor and join the rest of us here in the 21st century where the air is cleaner, people breathe easier and smoking is becoming more and more socially unacceptable.

After admitting smoking is harmful to smokers and non-smokers alike, England justified his veto by saying "part of our local economy and certain local groups thrive on the consumption of tobacco products." But we're talking about the medical well-being of an entire community vs. the economic concerns of a relative minority.

England says he'd have supported a compromise measure that would exempt certain kinds of businesses and organizations based on a variety of qualifications. But that's the failed path *Louisville* originally tried to take. And you saw how well that worked.

My guess is his decision had nothing to do with logic. It came as a result of a lack of courage, and that's where you come in. I suggest you call the mayor and your city council members and give them the courage to ban smoking. Give them permission to do the right thing.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Seeking Another Way for Wayside (8/21/08)

It appears Wayside Christian Mission would like to relocate to the old Mercy Academy Building on East Broadway. Many area residents oppose the idea.

It would be easy to dismiss their gripes as the old "Not in my back yard" syndrome. But that might not be the case here.

This residential area has already put up with more than its share of parking and other problems caused by the many bars and restaurants along the Baxter Avenue corridor. And while I'm glad such a vital dining and entertainment area exists, there's no question it puts a strain on its neighbors.

Adding another facility that would bring hundreds *more* people to this already-dense area just might be asking too much.

Of course, until recently the now-vacant building already was a *high school* that served hundreds of *students*. But that was different, because they arrived every morning and were pretty much all gone by late afternoon -- having little or no effect on the evening environment.

But Wayside's 24-hour-a-day operation would be quite a different kind of neighbor than a high school.

I'm not saying Wayside itself would be an offensive or objectionable neighbor. But I *can* understand why people living in an area that's already bursting at the seams might think there are wiser options.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View

Police Protection or Police State? (9/11/08)

It seems whenever another local shooting or murder is reported, a number of disgruntled people loudly complain about Louisville's lousy police protection.

But I'm curious – what do people really expect?

How are the police supposed to prevent one gang member from shooting another in a back yard at 3 AM? To keep a drunken husband from assaulting his wife right in her own bedroom? To magically know which bank branch is going to be robbed at what precise time?

The answer is – they can't.

The police simply can't be everywhere at once. And if we actually increased the size of the department enough to *have* "a cop on every corner," people would surely wail about the outrageous taxes necessary to pay for them.

Our police can, and do, prevent crimes every day. And they also solve a remarkably high percentage of those that are committed. But reporting *those* things never seems quite as urgent as being the first to trumpet the news of "another killing in Louisville."

You want to live in a society where the police *guarantee* no one will *ever* step out of line? Where no one can ever get away with anything because the authorities *always* have an eye on them?

That's not police protection. That's a police *state*. Personally, I want nothing to do with it. And I'm fairly sure most you really don't either.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Louisville – A Rolex Town (7/8/08)

If I owned a Rolex and it suddenly stopped working, I'd take it to a watch repair professional. I wouldn't expect him to just tell me there was something wrong with it. I'd expect him to use his knowledge and skills to *fix* it.

I also wouldn't decide the Rolex was suddenly nothing but junk just because it needed a new part.

But that's not the attitude of several local people who have ridiculed Louisville's selection as "America's Most Livable City" because of the shocking fact that we have crime and pollution problems and various other flaws.

These people fail to recognize that no city is problem-free by a long shot. But those problems are much more severe in most large American cities than they are here.

Any complete assessment of a community's livability should hinge not just on the *absence* of *negatives* but the *presence* of *positives*. And in that regard, Louisville is way ahead of the pack.

But what irritates me most about these nay-sayers is that while they're great at criticizing everything that's negative about our city, very few of them ever offer any feasible solutions. They're great at tearing stuff down, but really lousy at building anything.

As far as I'm concerned, Louisville is a Rolex of a town. And even if it needs work, I'm still glad it's mine.

What do you think? Call, and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Darts and Laurels (7/3/08)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

Our first Laurel goes to the city of Louisville -- recently named "The Most Livable City in America" by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, beating out such big-league names as Seattle, Las Vegas and Orlando, Florida.

We've always known what a great place this is, but it's good to see others recognize it as well.

Another Laurel goes to the Louisville Bats -- one of the many things that make this such a great city -- for their successful efforts to host this year's Triple-A All-Star Game. Some of the biggest young names in baseball will be showcased in the game at Slugger Field on July 16th -- as well as the Home Run Derby on the 14th -- and it'll provide yet another opportunity for our town to be showcased in a positive way on national TV.

And finally, one more Laurel to the Fund for the Arts -- led by Campaign Chair, Phil McHugh -- for not only exceeding its nine million-dollar 2008 campaign goal, but also beating last year's total by more than 12%. At a time when everyone is obviously watching their dollars much more closely, it's heartening to know Louisville has so many people who not only love the arts, but are willing to support them financially.

Looks like no Darts this time around, but I guess I'm just in a holiday mood. So Happy Independence Day, everyone!

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Louisville – Compassion City (9/2/08)

As I'm sure many of you did, I spent a good portion of my Labor Day weekend watching the progress of Hurricane Gustav. And I thought about the evacuees. I can only imagine what it would have been like to be bussed or flown to a city hundreds of miles away for the weekend, housed on a cot in a big convention center, and then have to sit idly wondering if my home would be there when I returned.

I was pleased to see Louisville step up and take in several thousand evacuees in an effort to try to make a bad situation tolerable. One hundred forty Red Cross volunteers gave up their holiday weekend to lend a hand.

I was pleasantly surprised to see several local businesses reach out to these people in an effort to help them pass the time and try to take their minds off what was happening back home -- if only for a few hours -- including the Louisville Bats, who also invited several hundred evacuees to enjoy the Bats' last regular season game as their guests.

The point is Louisville is a generous and warm city, one that reaches out to our neighbors when they need help.

Recently, Louisville adopted the name "Possibility City." And it warms my heart to know our *concept* of great possibilities includes not just what we can accomplish for ourselves, but also to how much good we're ready to do for others.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Historical Highway Hang-up (9/9/08)

There's a home here in Louisville that's been placed on the national historical register even though no presidents have slept there, no one famous grew up there, and its architecture, while appealing, is not unique.

Unfortunately, it sits smack in the way of the extension of I-265, where it'll connect with the proposed east end bridge – which will be used millions of times a year and open up economic opportunities for both Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

Now, it's a beautiful home, and it would be nice if we could preserve it, but not at all cost – and that's the key here. Because of its federally-protected status, it appears that “all cost” is pretty much what we're going to wind up paying for this road before it's all over.

Tunneling underneath the property would cost about 130 million dollars, so we're now looking into alternate routes *around* it. But really, the most sensible – and affordable -- thing would be to purchase the house at fair market value, tear it down, and create the simplest route from point A to point B.

Don't get me wrong – I'm all for historical preservation. But in this case, the definition of “historical” is not only way too broad but presents far more of a handicap to progress than any state should be forced to bear.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

The Straight Facts - Not (09-23-08)

One of my favorite quotes is "Where facts are few, experts are many." And countless complaints I've heard about the area's recent power problems drive that point home.

People have wailed "My area isn't getting any attention, but everyone who lives in (fill in the blank with a different area of town) has trucks all over their neighborhoods."

Baloney. Power was being restored to all parts of town at the same time. It was just happening one small area at a time, and everyone couldn't be first.

Some griped that while Louisville opened the Fairgrounds to shelter recent evacuees from Louisiana and Texas, it wouldn't do the same for its own citizens.

But Louisville Gardens *was* open for anyone who needed shelter.

And plenty of people insisted they were "sure the Mayor had his power back as soon as it went out."

Well, since the Mayor's home was powerless until Wednesday, that one doesn't fly either.

Throughout this crisis, the vast majority behaved wonderfully. But for some, when their comfortable routine was suddenly upset, all they had to offer was a bunch of uninformed gripes.

I hope we never go through a mess like this again. But if it's taught even just a few whiners that the world doesn't exist solely to please them, then maybe something positive will have been gained.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

The Ryder Cup Wasn't the Problem (9/18/08)

Since last weekend's storms knocked out power to hundreds of thousands, we've heard complaints from a lot of people. They were mad at city leaders for promising that everything would still be in tip-top shape at Valhalla for the Ryder Cup, and accuse them of ignoring the needs of average citizens in favor of "a bunch of rich tourists and golfers."

But they're wrong.

First, Valhalla sustained relatively little damage in the first place, and for the most part, power outages weren't even an issue.

But more importantly, it *was* perfectly appropriate for our leaders to make sure that event goes off without a hitch.

The Ryder Cup isn't just another golf tournament. It's a legendary piece of sporting history. Landing it in Louisville boosted our community's economy and prestige on the world stage like nothing else. And because our success with the Ryder Cup will influence our future chances of attracting other major events, *all* of us have a large stake in its success.

And before you ask – yes, my power was also out. It still is.

Sure, it's inconvenient. But I am confident LG&E is doing everything they can to get power restored to everyone as quickly as possible -- Ryder Cup or no Ryder Cup.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Planting + Neglect = Waste (9/16/08)

They say planting a tree is an investment in the future. And every year, Louisville spends a small fortune planting numerous young trees in urban neighborhoods so one day those areas will enjoy the same kind of shade and beauty to be found in many of the city's older neighborhoods.

But you can't just plant trees and forget about them. To have any shot at survival, they need to be mulched and watered consistently. And that's where the Public Works Department is falling down on the job.

Properly cared for, a tree like this one – and the many others that have been planted in the center city in recent years – would represent a good use of public money. But the *lack* of care they receive once they've been placed in the ground turns a good investment into a bunch of unsightly dead trees.

That doesn't seem terribly smart to me.

Since our own Public Works Department doesn't seem to have the resources or resolve to give these new saplings the water and other care they need, maybe the time has come to pass an ordinance *requiring* that all new trees planted by the city on public property must have an outside maintenance agreement to assure they are properly cared for.

If we can't afford that, there'd be fewer new trees. But if all we're going to do is kill them anyway, that wouldn't be much of a loss.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

McConnell's Negativity Scores No Points (7/31/08)

We should all be used to deceptive political advertising that twists facts and smears opponents. But why would a man in Mitch McConnell's position think *he* has to resort to such tactics?

His recent commercials try to pin the current high cost of gasoline on Bruce Lunsford simply because Lunsford worked in the Governor's office *twenty-eight years ago* when Kentucky's gas tax was changed from nine cents a gallon to a *percentage* of the price.

But this is ridiculous. First, Lunsford – who held no elected position at the time -- was hardly the major force behind this move. Second, the tax revision only makes a small difference in the overall cost of gas in any case. And third, had such a change *not* been adopted, by now our roads would be in ruin from a lack of maintenance.

Mitch McConnell has been good for Kentucky in many ways. His position of influence gives us welcome clout on a national level. He has so many *strengths* he *could* be talking about, it's just silly for him to fixate on one of his opponent's weaknesses – especially one so groundless.

I've certainly always respected Mitch McConnell, but it's hard to respect someone who just trashes his rival instead of emphasizing his *own* abilities and accomplishments.

Please, Senator – stop insulting our intelligence.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

McConnell – Tapping Into Common Sense (7/17/08)

After 9/11, the government asked the phone companies to cooperate with them to monitor the phone calls of suspected terrorists both in and out of this country, and they did.

Then, the trial lawyers came forward to sue the phone companies who helped the government. There are those in Congress who believe, as I do, that these companies should be protected from lawsuits.

Wednesday, I read another anti-Mitch McConnell article in the Courier Journal taking the position that McConnell backed a bill that would give phone companies immunity from such lawsuits because he received campaign contributions from the companies involved.

This one-sided article didn't mention that the trial lawyers suing the phone companies have *also* spent hundreds of thousands of dollars supporting *Democrats* who *support* these lawsuits. So let's call the campaign contributions a wash and look at what's right and wrong.

As Senator McConnell said, "We're not doing these companies any special favors. The U.S. government wouldn't even have a foreign surveillance program without them. And any law that makes it less likely that these companies cooperate with us in the future is a law that makes it harder to protect Americans from terrorist attacks."

Thankfully, the Senate followed Mr. McConnell's lead and passed legislation protecting the phone companies from opportunistic lawyers.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

The Pension Fix – Where’s the Dough? (7/1/08)

Kentucky’s legislators seem pleased with themselves for supposedly “fixing” the state’s employee pension system.

But while the plan does provide for reduced future benefits and other cost-saving measures, it *also* depends upon consistent increases each year in the amount the legislature puts into the system. Increases estimated at around 50 million dollars.

But where’s 50 million in new money supposed to come from *every year*?

In my experience, when it comes to good new revenue opportunities, our legislators are experts at shooting them down.

Reasonable hikes in cigarette taxes? No way.

Casino gambling? Can’t even get it on the ballot.

And our pitifully low commitment to higher education continues to keep Kentucky from attracting companies looking for competent, well-educated work forces – companies that *could* generate big increases in tax revenues.

So while our lawmakers seem happy about *only* needing an extra 50 million bucks every year for 15 years or more, I’m skeptical about their ability to find it.

Simply declaring a problem “solved” doesn’t necessarily make it so. And until our representatives start showing some courage in finding ways to pay for what we need, I’m afraid this latest pension fix is doomed to failure.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

I’m Bill Lamb, and that’s my...Point of View.

Darts and Laurels (8/28/08)

Today is another good day for some Darts and Laurels.

A laurel goes to NBC for their excellent coverage of the Olympics. For the past few Olympics I was very disappointed in their coverage which was too heavy with heartwarming human interest vignettes and too light on actual sports coverage. But this year I thought they did a great job.

Another laurel goes to China for hosting perhaps the best Olympics in history. Never before and maybe never again will we see opening and closing ceremonies like the ones we saw from Beijing. Regardless of how you feel about China politically, you have to admire the perfection they achieved with these games. Of course, having a \$41 billion dollar budget certainly helped.

Finally, a dart to Bruce Lunsford's campaign and I'd throw two if I could. They lifted a word from one of my editorials condemning negative political ads, and put it in a *negative* ad against Mitch McConnell. You talk about missing the point completely! The only way politicians can communicate with us anymore is to say, "You may think I'm a low life, crooked, snake in the grass, so I can't tell you much about myself, but wait till you hear about my opponent. He's even worse, so vote for me!"

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Candidates: Be Worthy of Being Called “Honorable” (8/5/08)

Last week I did a Point of View on the fact that Mitch McConnell blaming Bruce Lunsford for the high price of gas is, frankly, insulting to the thinking people of Kentucky. We received a good deal of feedback on that one with many people feeling that I am now down on Senator McConnell.

I'm not at *all* down on the Senator, or the job he's done in Washington. I think there is great value in having a man of his experience and clout in Washington representing us.

What I *am* down on is this passion for negative political advertising causing truth to become a casualty. If Burger King advertised by only telling you how bad their competitor is we'd all flock to McDonald's out of protest. But negative advertising is just the way things are done in politics. The strategy seems to say, "You may not like me much, but look how much worse my opponent is!"

Well I want Mitch McConnell to forget about Lunsford and tell us why we should vote for him again. I want him to tell us about his strengths and what he will do for us in return for our vote. I want Lunsford, and Northup, and Yarmuth to tell us why *they* are the kind of people for whom we should cast our vote. I want them to be civil, and above petty name calling. I want whomever we elect to be worthy of being called "Honorable."

What do you think? Call us and let us know.

I'm Bill Lamb and that's my...Point of View.

Darts and Laurels (8/14/08)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

First a Dart goes to Kimberly Bunton, former head of Louisville's Housing and Family Services Department, who appears to have been caught improperly funneling over \$2,000 of city money to her mother.

The original offense was bad enough. But her self-serving "apology" that basically implied she really did nothing wrong -- it only seemed that way -- was arrogant and insulting.

Next, a big Laurel to Jeffersonville's George Rogers Clark team that's heading to the Little League World Series after winning last week's Great Lakes Regional.

The last time we had Little League Fever around here was in 2002 when Louisville's Valley Sports team won the championship. That was big fun, and I certainly wish the Hoosiers the same kind of success.

And finally, a Laurel goes to Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway, who seems serious about his desire to solve the mystery surrounding the Louisville area's unusually high gas prices.

This is one example of an elected official actually dealing with an issue that makes a real difference to his constituents. And any time that happens, it should definitely be encouraged.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.

Open the Oil Fields (7/17/08)

Today, our country faces perhaps the greatest threat in its history -- the rising price of oil and its effect on our entire economy. Oil prices are up because we've allowed ourselves to be so dependent upon foreign supplies.

But I have news for you, and it comes from many, many oil experts.

Our western states sit on a sea of oil three times as large as the oil reserves in Saudi Arabia. On the northernmost edge of Alaska in the ANWR Coastal Plains, we may have as much as 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil -- a 50 year supply. But in both areas, Congress has been blocking any drilling for that oil.

Conservationists say if we drill for oil in Alaska we'll hurt the wildlife. That simply isn't true. Existing petroleum development at Prudhoe Bay hasn't negatively affected wildlife. Alaska's oil fields are simply the cleanest in the world, bar none.

Certainly, our ultimate goal must be to find and develop alternative forms of fuel so we no longer need oil at all, but that's going to take decades. In the meantime, with gas prices at more than \$4 a gallon and climbing, we can no longer afford these unrealistic prohibitions, and it's time Congress kicked them to the curb...and fast.

I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my...Point of View.