

The following editorials were broadcast during fourth quarter 2008, 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. No Guest Editorials were aired on WMYO.

Education

U of L Meal Plan: Hard to Swallow (10-23-08)
Darts and Laurels (12/11/08)

Public Health and Safety

Darts and Laurels (10-16-08)
Hoosiers: Raising the Driving Age (10-21-08)
Guest Editorial - Joe Tolan/United Way (12/8/08)
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Police/Crime/Courts

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Guest Editorial - Merge the Big Three? (12/12/08)
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Politics

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The Courier-Journal - Rigid to a Fault (10/7/08)
Darts and Laurels (10-16-08)
An Endorsement for McConnell (10/28/08)
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It's Not Too Late to Vote (11/4/08)
The Election's Finest Hour (11/6/08)

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David Williams - Irrational Obstructionist (11/13/08)
Harrison County Plays While Louisville Pays (11/18/08)
Williams for Governor - A Bad Idea (12/2/08)
Darts and Laurels (12/4/08)
Share the Sacrifice? No Thanks (12/9/08)
Everyone's Skin is in the Game (12/16/08)

Drugs and Drug Abuse

None

U of L Meal Plan: Hard to Swallow (10-23-08)

Last week, U of L announced a plan requiring all full-time undergraduate students on the Belknap campus -- *including commuters* -- to purchase a meal plan that would cost at least \$250 and up to more than \$1,000 *per semester*. Supposedly, it's designed to help create "more and better dining options" on campus and enhance residential life.

Now I'm a big U of L supporter, but this makes no sense to me. At a time of skyrocketing tuition costs, this kind of arbitrary fee adds insult to injury.

If U of L wants more and better dining options, they should provide the necessary space and allow new vendors to *prove* they're better. If they are, more students will naturally patronize them and they'll get their money the old-fashioned way -- by earning it.

And while "residential life on campus" *is* a great thing, let's face it. A major part of U of L's mission has always been -- and always will be -- to serve a large base of commuter students. And these people's schedules often don't allow for the luxury of on-campus dining.

Universities shouldn't be in the business of micromanaging the details of their students' lives right down to where they choose to eat. And this plan should be tossed in the dumpster along with the rest of today's table scraps.

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

Darts and Laurels (12/11/08)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

First, a Laurel goes to the University of Kentucky for taking the gutsy step of banning all smoking anywhere on its campus, indoors or out. Smokers – whose numbers are dwindling every day – obviously won't be happy with this move. But it's a welcome recognition – especially in a state that's been associated with tobacco for so long -- of the fact that their habit is a costly threat to public health that shouldn't be supported in any way by the Commonwealth's flagship university.

Now, let's see if the University of Louisville will follow suit.

Next, a somewhat tiny Dart goes to the McDonald's at Second and Broadway, which has allowed its unsightly, damaged sign to go unrepaired for far too long now. It's not a huge deal, but one part of the urban charm of a nighttime drive down Broadway is seeing the city all lit up and looking its best. But really -- that sign isn't holding up its end of the deal.

And finally, another Laurel goes to Metro United Way, which -- with about two months left in its campaign -- has already raised over 90% of its annual goal. A lot of credit should go to President Joe Tolan and Campaign Chairman Craig Grant. But a lot should also go to everyone in this caring community who's made such a success possible in these tough economic times.

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Our first Laurel goes to long-time area businessman Ken Towery, who was recently named Tire Dealer of the Year by Modern Tire Dealer magazine. This award recognizes Ken as the best in an industry that includes over 28,000 other dealers in North America, and he earned it the old-fashioned way – by always going the extra mile in caring for both his customers and employees.

Next, a Dart goes to every non-incumbent running for office who's using an opponent's "yes" vote on the recent 700 billion-dollar rescue plan against them. First, passing that bill was the right thing to do. But more importantly, knowing the level of support it had among the leaders of *both* parties, it's laughable to believe the majority of these fibbers wouldn't have voted exactly the same way if *they'd* had the chance.

And finally, a Laurel to Norton Healthcare, for renewing their commitment to underwriting the real-time closed captioning on all Fox 41 newscasts for another year. This is no small investment, but the benefit it provides to the more than 147,000 deaf or hard of hearing people in our area is immeasurable. They – and we – appreciate Norton's generosity in making it possible.

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Hoosiers: Raising the Driving Age (10-21-08)

In January, Indiana lawmakers are expected to consider legislation raising the minimum driving age in the Hoosier state to 16 ½ years and imposing other requirements for getting a license – including *professional* driver training. And that has my full support.

Several decades of driving statistics reveal two indisputable facts:

- Young drivers are overrepresented in all crashes; and
- Young males are overrepresented in all traffic *deaths*.

This doesn't mean all young drivers are dangerous. But it does prove inexperience plays a major role in a problem that kills over 41,000 Americans every year – about ten times the number we've lost in the Iraq War.

Many of us learned how to drive from mom or dad. But if parents are lousy drivers themselves, their bad habits will just be passed down to the next generation.

Actually, I'd support a law requiring drivers of *all* ages to take a refresher course in safe driving before being allowed to renew their licenses. Many would be shocked to learn how unprepared for the road they really are.

Anyone getting behind the wheel should be properly trained to handle what can easily become a two-ton deadly weapon. And if an extra six-month learning period for new drivers accomplishes that, I'm all for it.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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Guest Editorial – Joe Tolan/United Way (12/8/08)

Hello, I'm Joe Tolan, President and CEO of Metro United Way.

First, I want to say thank you to the many individuals who have already given to this year's United Way campaign.

The holidays are a wonderful, yet hectic, time of year. Amid all the hustle and bustle, it's easy to forget our blessings, as well as the people in our community who are in need of our help.

The economic turmoil facing our nation has not bypassed our community. Needs in our community have increased substantially as more families find it harder to make ends meet. And the need for other vital services has not slackened. That's why I am asking everyone who has the *ability* to give to *make* a gift – be it a new gift or an additional one. Thanks to a generous long term supporter, we have the \$200,000 *Give United* grant that allows us to match your gift, dollar for dollar. This is a great way to leverage your charitable giving, while touching many lives in our community for the better.

We have also created a page on our web site for you to make on-line holiday donations in honor of your friends, loved ones or customers.

Rather than purchasing them a traditional gift, I ask you to consider a gift of giving by making a donation to Metro United Way in their honor.

I can't emphasize enough that every dollar matters. These are hard times, and the pain is worse for those most vulnerable.

For more information on how you can help your community through a generous donation, please visit our Web site at Metrounitedway.org.

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First, a Laurel to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, which has expressed interest in taking over Otter Creek Park to operate as a wildlife-management area. Earlier this week, Mayor Abramson announced the closing of the park as a cost-saving move, but this would be the ideal solution for 2,600 beautiful recreational acres that many throughout the entire region would otherwise miss greatly.

Next, a Dart to all those people who want to blame the mayor for literally every economic problem currently facing Louisville. If we'd just lose the tunnel-vision for a moment and take a look at the rest of the country, we'd see that practically every city in America is wrestling with the same challenges. Mayor Abramson has a sometimes thankless job, and those who want to lay the blame for all our fiscal woes on his doorstep are missing the much-bigger economic picture.

And finally, I'd like to send a Laurel to the Highland area's Graffiti Buster program, which is not only dedicated to removing unwanted graffiti on public property, but will also help you recycle your unused, unwanted paint. If you'd like to get a bunch of those old half-empty cans out of your basement or garage and help fight vandalism at the same time, send an email to graffitibusters@gmail.com

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Pass the \$700 Billion Rescue Plan Now! (10/2/08)

Many people simply don't understand what's going on with this \$700 billion dollar bailout so they are against it. I believe it is critical; *critical* that it be approved by Congress immediately.

Without this rescue plan, the stock market will plummet. We got just a taste of that on Monday. That will affect every person in this country. It will severely damage and possibly wipe out your 401k retirement savings and many of us simply will be unable to retire.

Without this rescue plan, credit will dry up immediately in this country. You will not be able to buy a car or a washing machine unless you can pay cash. Within a few weeks and maybe even days your credit cards simply will not work. Widespread panic will spring from that.

Without the rescue plan, this will very quickly become a much different country than the one we grew up in.

There is one very important point to make here: The bailout is not a gift from the tax payers to Wall Street. The plan is to have the government purchase the assets of these troubled banks, eventually sell those assets off when the market becomes healthier, and then return the money to the U.S. Treasury.

Many people should be punished for their greed on Wall Street and that time will come soon enough. But now we must stabilize the economy before irreversible damage is done.

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

Guest Editorial – Hal Heiner - Downtown Boondoggle (10/6/08)

On Thursday the Metro Council will vote on one of the biggest giveaways in the history of our great City.

Our Mayor has signed an agreement with a Maryland developer to give away \$36 million dollars in cash and property, in hopes they will build downtown.

Unfortunately the Mayor's agreement only requires the developer to invest \$12 million dollars of their own money, to receive our generous \$36 million dollar gift.

Last week many members of the Metro Council spoke up in opposition to this \$36 million giveaway.

In the past few years Metro Government has invested more than a billion dollars in downtown –

We have subsidized a new Marriott and Museum Plaza, given away 4th Street Live and gone into debt for a mega Downtown Arena.

Today, downtown is alive and well, and the need to mortgage our city's future to attract developers should be over.

The Mayor and his administration blew this deal – and aren't willing to admit their mistake.

I and many of my colleagues have tried to speak with the Mayor to convince him to fix this deal, but he is intent on approving this boondoggle.

Now --- We need your help

Call 311 and ask to speak with your Council member.

Tell your Council member to stop this deal before we spend the next 20 years paying for it.

I'm Hal Heiner, and that's my...Point of View.

Eradicate the Leeches (10/14/08)

A couple of weeks ago, I said Congress should pass the 700 billion dollar rescue plan immediately, and that there'd be plenty of time later to punish the people who irresponsibly or illegally caused this mess.

Well, it seems some people just can't wait to be punished.

Like the stupid, arrogant executives at AIG who spent over \$400,000 on a lavish "retreat" just days after accepting an 87 billion dollar government loan to help them avoid bankruptcy.

And get this: Just last Wednesday – AFTER the retreat – the feds granted AIG yet *another* loan of over 37 billion dollars!

What all these selfish leeches SHOULD be getting is a bill for every penny spent on that retreat, heavy fines levied against their personal fortunes, and some serious time behind bars for defrauding the American public.

And be sure to save some outrage for those political hacks in Congress who wouldn't vote for the bailout bill until it *also* included yet more needless, wasteful earmarks so they could bring home some more pork.

Americans are being asked for a lot during this crisis. And if this is all we can expect in return, the jerks who continue to exploit this crisis for their own gain will deserve every bit of the ugly backlash they've got coming.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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Darts and Laurels (10-16-08)

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Nothing to Fear But Fear Itself (10-20-08)

The economy has a lot of people scared right now. The national media is all about bad news and that has scared some people to stop spending and to hang on to what they have.

In his first inaugural address, President Franklin Roosevelt took on an unusually solemn tone. And for good reason—by 1933 the depression had reached its depth. It is from that address concerning the economy that he said, “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

His words ring true today except our circumstances are far, far better today than 1933. Our 401Ks and stocks are typically long term investments. They’ll bounce back and then some. History has proven this time and again.

94% of us are employed. We’re still taking home paychecks, we’re still buying necessities, and with the price of gas down by more than a dollar and a quarter we have even more discretionary money than we had just last summer.

I would just say, if you need a new car, buy a new car. If you need a new home, this is a great time to buy a new home. With bargains galore in the stores, it’s a great time to go Christmas shopping.

Let’s keep living our lives. Should we remain alert? You bet. But it serves none of us to be paralyzed by fear.

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

Guest Editorial – Negative Media (10-31-08)

I wish to speak out and voice my concern with the way that our national and local media are bombarding our airwaves with negative and sensational journalism.

They are changing the mindset of the public through “their” views and opinions, as opposed to factual journalism. Let’s rise up and stop letting these negative stories infiltrate our minds. For every one positive report we see, there are 100 negative ones to follow.

The media has a major impact on our emotions as well as our economy. Our country may be in economic hard times, but continuing to allow fear to come in is what is going to cripple our economy.

I’m a realtor and have seen the negative impact the media has had on our industry. Believe it or not, our local real estate market is still solid and stable compared to the national market. We must continue to spend money because our community depends on us from small purchases to large ones -- like a car or home.

Let’s live life and not live in fear of what we see day in and day out on TV. I encourage Fox 41 to keep up the work of being journalists and not sensationalists. It’s within us all to have a good attitude each day. We must not let the fear of speculative journalism change our positive mindset.

Let’s not let our TV control us. Let’s control what we watch. Be a light in the world by spreading good news and building up those around you.

I’m Missy Platt, and that’s my...Point of View.

Harrison County Plays While Louisville Pays (11/18/08)

A decade ago, when Kentucky and Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana said “no” to casino gambling, Harrison County said “yes.” Soon, Caesars – now the Horseshoe – opened its doors there. And they deserve congratulations as they celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Harrison County’s far-sighted decision has so far netted it over 300 million dollars in tax revenue. They’re rolling in cash, while their nay-saying neighbors are dealing with budget shortfalls and scrambling to put a good face on layoffs and service cutbacks.

Of course, Caesars was never targeting Harrison County’s small population of 37,000. They just wanted to be as close to Louisville as possible, because they knew that’s where the vast majority of its future patrons lived -- and they were right.

So, since 1998, Louisville gamblers have happily handed over something like 200 million dollars to make sure Harrison County’s schools and roads are state-of-the-art, while our own city budget has become a patchwork mess.

That short 11-mile drive certainly isn’t keeping Louisvillians from trying to win a few bucks at a slot machine. But it *is* keeping us from ever being anything but losers in the much bigger game of generating revenue.

And until we finally let reason rule over hypocrisy, we’ll have only ourselves to blame.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

We Must Help Detroit (11/20/08)

I'm concerned about the financial condition of the big three automakers. I don't like the idea of bailout, or massive loans any more than the next guy. But I have to believe that if they fail it would be catastrophic to our country. And I don't use words like "catastrophic" lightly.

It's not clear to me what they will do with the \$25 billion dollar loans they seek, and I don't think *they* know yet. But I can tell you this: If the domestic auto business fails, direct and indirect employment will drop by almost three million people, personal income will drop by 151 billion dollars, social security receipts will drop by 21 billion dollars, and personal income tax paid would drop by 25 billion dollars...annually.

Today, Ford and GM are building high quality vehicles equal to what Japan and Germany are putting on the road. That may not be the perception but it is the reality. Not all, but many, of the financial problems they face right now come from elements out of their control -- like the inability to secure credit for modernizing their plants, for customers trying to buy cars, and for dealers trying to finance inventory.

It may be tough to grant this bailout, but nothing like how tough it will be if the domestic automakers fail.

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Thank you.

Share the Sacrifice? No Thanks (12/9/08)

No one likes cuts in pay, benefits or services. But in times of economic crisis, if they can be spread out as equitably as possible, the chances are better we'll *all* come through OK. And it's doubly important that the policy makers themselves aren't exempt.

Mayor Abramson understands this. That's why he and his top aides have taken a 10% cut. And recently, Metro Council President Jim King introduced a proposal that all Council members should also be subject to the three-day furlough without pay that will affect all the rest of the city's employees. 23 members signed it. But three of them – Judith Green, Mary Woolridge and Cheri Bryant Hamilton – refused, claiming the loss of three day's pay would impose an undue hardship.

Not only that, but all are members of the Budget Committee, and Ms. Hamilton is even its chair!

I can't begin to understand how these three people can claim to represent their constituents when they clearly think the sacrifices being asked of literally everyone in city government shouldn't also apply to them. Especially when I'm sure thousands of metro employees will feel the hurt of three days of lost pay far more than these three Grinches.

They should be setting an example of how government works. And they are.

Only it's a really lousy one.

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Guest Editorial – Merge the Big Three? (12/12/08)

It seems like lately, all you see and hear about is how the Federal Government needs to bail out the Big Three -- General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler Corporation. I'm not opposed to helping them, but it seems to me if the top designers and engineers of the Big Three would join together and create one automotive company, they surely could produce a safe, dependable, and economical line of vehicles. They could compete against the foreign market instead of each other here in the United States.

I heard that if GM closes its doors at the end of December, over 600,000 jobs would be affected immediately. This could, and probably would, put us in a serious depression. If these are high-paying hourly wage jobs, it seems that if the employees would take a \$5.00 per hour pay cut -- which would, in most cases, still pay them above what they would make elsewhere, and surely more than the unemployment line -- the company could save three million dollars per hour. In one 24-hour workday they could save 72 million dollars!

That's a significant savings for a small sacrifice and might save not only their company but our nation from a serious depression.

I'm Michael Montgomery and that's my...Point of View.

Everyone's Skin is in the Game (12/16/08)

Anyone old enough to remember classic "Popeye" comic strips will recall that Popeye's friend, Wimpy, was always fond of suggesting "Let's you and him fight."

That seems to be the philosophy of so many people who claim to know exactly what should be cut from government and business budgets in response to our current economic woes.

As far as they're concerned the only acceptable answer is: "Cut anything, as long as it doesn't affect me."

Whether it's the firefighters, the police, union workers, non-union workers, elected officials, private business owners or just the guy who wants a pothole filled, they all seem to have one thing in common: While they know it's important that we – *as a group* – do some serious belt-tightening, whatever they *personally* do -- or want -- is just too critical to be included in any cutbacks.

Well here's a bulletin – no one and nothing is that essential. Any of us could be run down by a bus tomorrow, and the world would limp along without us. So no one should be above sharing a portion of the pain so we can all make it through until better days return.

In announcing his latest cuts, Mayor Abramson insisted that "everyone must have skin in the game." I agree. And anyone who thinks they're too important to be included in such a policy should really think again before everyone else decides to expel them from the game entirely.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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Guest Editorial – Hal Heiner - Downtown Boondoggle (10/6/08)

On Thursday the Metro Council will vote on one of the biggest giveaways in the history of our great City.

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Now --- We need your help

Call 311 and ask to speak with your Council member.

Tell your Council member to stop this deal before we spend the next 20 years paying for it.

I'm Hal Heiner, and that's my...Point of View.

The Courier-Journal - Rigid to a Fault (10/7/08)

As you might imagine, I'm all in favor of people - and organizations - having a point of view.

But intelligent opinions should be the products of educated, open minds - not mere talking points that never deviate from a pre-conceived script no matter how wildly the facts may refute them.

Sadly, Louisville's newspaper of record, The Courier-Journal, apparently disagrees.

Sure, it's always had a liberal slant. And that's perfectly OK.

But what *used* to be the paper's well-informed, generally liberal view of the world has evolved under its current editorial leadership into a narrow, single-minded doctrine that rigidly clings to the liberal position on absolutely every issue, without the slightest tolerance of any deviation.

The only way they ever endorse a Republican is if the Democratic candidate is a complete mouth-breather.

They're so unaffected by facts, I sometimes think if they ever took an editorial position in favor of rain, they'd stubbornly stick to it even if all of downtown were underwater.

Ironically, I agree with the Courier on many of its opinions. But that's because I see merit in some liberal ideas. I vote for Republicans AND Democrats. But unfortunately, I see no such willingness on the paper's part to broaden their view in the same way.

And I think the city suffers terribly as a result.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Darts and Laurels (10-16-08)

Time again for a few Darts and Laurels.

Our first Laurel goes to long-time area businessman Ken Towery, who was recently named Tire Dealer of the Year by Modern Tire Dealer magazine. This award recognizes Ken as the best in an industry that includes over 28,000 other dealers in North America, and he earned it the old-fashioned way - by always going the extra mile in caring for both his customers and employees.

Next, a Dart goes to every non-incumbent running for office who's using an opponent's "yes" vote on the recent 700 billion-dollar rescue plan against them. First, passing that bill was the right thing to do. But more importantly, knowing the level of support it had among the leaders of *both* parties, it's laughable to believe the majority of these fibbers wouldn't have voted exactly the same way if *they'd* had the chance.

And finally, a Laurel to Norton Healthcare, for renewing their commitment to underwriting the real-time closed captioning on all Fox 41 newscasts for another year. This is no small investment, but the benefit it provides to the more than 147,000 deaf or hard of hearing people in our area is immeasurable. They - and we - appreciate Norton's generosity in making it possible.

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

An Endorsement for McConnell (10/28/08)

For the past year, the Courier Journal has used every drop of ink and every fiber of paper to convince you to vote for Bruce Lunsford. Actually, they don't care as much that you vote for Lunsford as they do that you vote against Mitch McConnell. They know Lunsford, try as he might, has yet to be elected to any political office, but they don't care about that lack of experience or his vague positions on the issues. They just don't want McConnell.

But Mitch McConnell has devoted his life to our Commonwealth. He has risen to a position of great influence in Congress—a position that benefits all of us. It's better for us to have arguably the most powerful person in Congress looking out for Kentucky's interests than a rookie who would have less than zero influence on our behalf in Washington.

Recently, Senator McConnell was sitting at the table with President Bush, Barack Obama, John McCain, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi, working through the bi-partisan financial rescue plan, while Lunsford was sitting back here waffling over whether he would support the plan or not. And we still don't know.

Don't be bullied or fooled by the agenda of a handful of ultra-liberals at the Courier. Mitch McConnell can get 20 things done for Kentucky while Bruce Lunsford is trying to find the keys to the washroom. Don't give up the most influence in Congress for the least.

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

Viewer Response – Lunsford Endorsement (10-30-08)

This week WDRB's Bill Lamb endorsed Senator Mitch McConnell for U.S. Senate. Mr. Lamb was swayed by McConnell's claims of clout and leadership, but you shouldn't be. McConnell is costing Kentuckians far more than he's bringing back. Because of the failed policies of George Bush and Mitch McConnell, every Kentuckian has paid \$2,100 for the Iraq War, \$2,300 for the Wall Street bailout, and owes \$33,000 for the national debt.

In the meantime, McConnell has deprived Kentuckians of health care for children, benefits for veterans, cheaper prescription drugs, and done nothing to prevent our neighbors from losing their homes. McConnell even chose tax cuts for the super-rich over tax cuts for the middle class.

After 24 years in Washington, Mitch McConnell's using his clout for the wrong people.

We need change now.

On Tuesday, I'm voting for Bruce Lunsford because he'll take us in a new direction, one built on opportunity and prosperity for Kentucky's families and small businesses, not the special interests. And believe me, Bruce Lunsford will be no ordinary first-term senator. He'll be independent like Kentucky, fight for us, and use his vote to put Kentucky first.

Not only will Bruce bring his real-world business experience to Washington to help get our economy back on track, he'll use his experience in health care to make health insurance more affordable. And Kentucky will benefit from having a voice in the strong majority Democrats will have.

Join me in voting for Bruce Lunsford on Tuesday. It's time for change.

I'm Jack Conway, and that's my...Point of View.

It's Not Too Late to Vote! (11/4/08)

More than 230 years ago, a new nation was formed that was dedicated to the principle that each of its citizens – from the richest to the poorest -- should have an equal say in determining its leaders. Today the United States again makes good on that promise.

Over the centuries, thousands have died to safeguard our system of Democracy -- something many millions across the globe can only dream of. And if, by some miracle, those people suddenly *did* win the right to have a say in their own government, I'm sure very few of them would pass it up.

But recently, here in America, huge percentages of our citizens haven't even bothered to go to the polls on Election Day. And that's a shame.

Advance polling seems to indicate *this* year will be an exception to that trend, and a large turnout is expected. But expecting it and achieving it are two different things. So we still have to follow through.

Maybe you haven't voted yet -- but *the polls are still open*. And if you're in line by 6 PM, you can still add your voice to the many important decisions that'll affect you and your family for years to come.

So please -- do it. It's just about the most patriotic thing any American can do. And even if you wind up unhappy with the election's outcome, just be grateful we still have elections to be unhappy about.

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

The Election's Finest Hour (11/6/08)

Chances are, you were either disappointed or elated as you watched the Presidential election returns come in Tuesday night. But no matter who you backed, I believe both candidates achieved the finest moments of their respective campaigns just minutes after the winner had been declared.

In conceding defeat, Mr. McCain gave one of the most graceful statements possible. His good wishes and pledge to work with President-elect Obama for the common good were clearly sincere. And his refusal to tolerate the abusive catcalls from a small minority in his audience spoke volumes.

And in his victory speech, Mr. Obama was not only eloquent, but equally gracious toward his opponent. When he said of Mr. McCain, "He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine, and we are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader," he demonstrated a great deal of grace and elegance.

I believe that regardless of political labels, all most Americans really want is whatever's best for the country we love. And Tuesday evening, we were treated to a heartening picture of mutual respect and honorable behavior that should be remembered long after we've forgotten all the mudslinging commercials.

So whether your guy won or not, at least the process was civilized. And we all had a voice in it. That counts for a lot.

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

Blindly Voting the Party Line (11/11/08)

I'm happy about the Metro Council's vote to approve measures that will allow the Cordish Company to proceed with the development of its Center City project. Cordish has already established its competence and trustworthiness in bringing 4th Street Live to fruition. And I think Center City will continue that success.

But I am troubled by the fact that the vote broke 100% along party lines, with all 15 Democrats supporting the plan, while all 11 Republicans on the Council opposed it.

This defies logic. Are we supposed to believe that not a single Republican could see any possible merit in this project? Or that not one Democrat harbored any hesitation about it whatsoever?

This is the most brazen example yet of politicians shamelessly pandering to their power bases rather than fulfilling their duty to make reasoned decisions based on the facts and their value systems.

The irony here is that if the Democrats had, for some reason, *opposed* the project, then I'll bet it would have been defeated, but by the same margin – with all the Democrats saying “no” and all the Republicans saying “yes.”

This is childish beyond belief. And if this is the best we can expect from the Metro Council on every issue, this community is in for some rocky times, indeed.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

David Williams – Irrational Obstructionist (11/13/08)

We can argue over blame and dispute exact figures. But its clear the money Kentucky currently generates through taxes and other revenues doesn't come close to matching what's required to provide even the most basic services – like education and road maintenance.

State Senator David Williams claims any pleas to help fix the problem are just the paranoid wails of a Democratic administration that doesn't know how to budget.

But denying a problem exists doesn't make it so.

This problem transcends political affiliations. It's the natural result of *both* parties selling themselves to Kentucky voters for decades on the easy and empty promise of “something for nothing.” And now, the house of cards we've been constructing all these years is finally collapsing.

Senator Williams opposes logical revenue-producing options – like legalizing casino gambling or upping the cigarette tax – and that's just a pure abdication of responsibility.

If David Williams is so convinced of the virtue of his obstructionism, then let's see him look his constituents in the eye and tell them *exactly* which state services they'll have to do without in the future in order to accommodate his irrational fiscal policy.

It's quite possible he'll say “nothing.” But if that's the case, believe him at your own peril.

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

Harrison County Plays While Louisville Pays (11/18/08)

A decade ago, when Kentucky and Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana said “no” to casino gambling, Harrison County said “yes.” Soon, Caesars – now the Horseshoe – opened its doors there. And they deserve congratulations as they celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Harrison County’s far-sighted decision has so far netted it over 300 million dollars in tax revenue. They’re rolling in cash, while their nay-saying neighbors are dealing with budget shortfalls and scrambling to put a good face on layoffs and service cutbacks.

Of course, Caesars was never targeting Harrison County’s small population of 37,000. They just wanted to be as close to Louisville as possible, because they knew that’s where the vast majority of its future patrons lived -- and they were right.

So, since 1998, Louisville gamblers have happily handed over something like 200 million dollars to make sure Harrison County’s schools and roads are state-of-the-art, while our own city budget has become a patchwork mess.

That short 11-mile drive certainly isn’t keeping Louisvillians from trying to win a few bucks at a slot machine. But it *is* keeping us from ever being anything but losers in the much bigger game of generating revenue.

And until we finally let reason rule over hypocrisy, we’ll have only ourselves to blame.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Williams for Governor – A Bad Idea (12/2/08)

Political columnist Al Cross sent a shiver down my spine recently when he wrote a piece calling State Senate President David Williams a leading contender to become the next Republican candidate for governor of Kentucky.

From where I sit, it's hard to imagine a worse choice.

As a state senator for more than 20 years – and Senate *President* since 2000 – the most outstanding talent he's exhibited is a consistent, bull-headed ability to say "no" to anything supported by a political opponent. And if it might happen to benefit Louisville – where our tax dollars fund every project from Ashland to Paducah -- he says it twice as loud.

Recently, while questioning Governor Steve Beshear's simple (and obvious) warning of a budget crisis, Williams had the audacity to paint Mr. Beshear as a bully who only wants to "keep a fist in our face."

Well, Mr. Williams should be an authority on bullies. Throughout his career, he's used *his* iron fist to block practically every constructive revenue-producing idea proposed – from raising tobacco taxes to legalizing casino gambling.

I don't know if Governor Beshear will get my vote when the next election rolls around. But I do know David Williams isn't an acceptable alternative. As governor, he'd be bad for Kentucky -- and worse for Louisville.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Darts and Laurels (12/4/08)

Time for more Darts and Laurels.

First, a Laurel to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, which has expressed interest in taking over Otter Creek Park to operate as a wildlife-management area. Earlier this week, Mayor Abramson announced the closing of the park as a cost-saving move, but this would be the ideal solution for 2,600 beautiful recreational acres that many throughout the entire region would otherwise miss greatly.

Next, a Dart to all those people who want to blame the mayor for literally every economic problem currently facing Louisville. If we'd just lose the tunnel-vision for a moment and take a look at the rest of the country, we'd see that practically every city in America is wrestling with the same challenges. Mayor Abramson has a sometimes thankless job, and those who want to lay the blame for all our fiscal woes on his doorstep are missing the much-bigger economic picture.

And finally, I'd like to send a Laurel to the Highland area's Graffiti Buster program, which is not only dedicated to removing unwanted graffiti on public property, but will also help you recycle your unused, unwanted paint. If you'd like to get a bunch of those old half-empty cans out of your basement or garage and help fight vandalism at the same time, send an email to graffitibusters@gmail.com

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

Share the Sacrifice? No Thanks (12/9/08)

No one likes cuts in pay, benefits or services. But in times of economic crisis, if they can be spread out as equitably as possible, the chances are better we'll *all* come through OK. And it's doubly important that the policy makers themselves aren't exempt.

Mayor Abramson understands this. That's why he and his top aides have taken a 10% cut. And recently, Metro Council President Jim King introduced a proposal that all Council members should also be subject to the three-day furlough without pay that will affect all the rest of the city's employees. 23 members signed it. But three of them – Judith Green, Mary Woolridge and Cheri Bryant Hamilton – refused, claiming the loss of three day's pay would impose an undue hardship.

Not only that, but all are members of the Budget Committee, and Ms. Hamilton is even its chair!

I can't begin to understand how these three people can claim to represent their constituents when they clearly think the sacrifices being asked of literally everyone in city government shouldn't also apply to them. Especially when I'm sure thousands of metro employees will feel the hurt of three days of lost pay far more than these three Grinches.

They should be setting an example of how government works. And they are.

Only it's a really lousy one.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Everyone's Skin is in the Game (12/16/08)

Anyone old enough to remember classic "Popeye" comic strips will recall that Popeye's friend, Wimpy, was always fond of suggesting "Let's you and him fight."

That seems to be the philosophy of so many people who claim to know exactly what should be cut from government and business budgets in response to our current economic woes.

As far as they're concerned the only acceptable answer is: "Cut anything, as long as it doesn't affect me."

Whether it's the firefighters, the police, union workers, non-union workers, elected officials, private business owners or just the guy who wants a pothole filled, they all seem to have one thing in common: While they know it's important that we – *as a group* – do some serious belt-tightening, whatever they *personally* do -- or want -- is just too critical to be included in any cutbacks.

Well here's a bulletin – no one and nothing is that essential. Any of us could be run down by a bus tomorrow, and the world would limp along without us. So no one should be above sharing a portion of the pain so we can all make it through until better days return.

In announcing his latest cuts, Mayor Abramson insisted that "everyone must have skin in the game." I agree. And anyone who thinks they're too important to be included in such a policy should really think again before everyone else decides to expel them from the game entirely.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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