

The following editorials were broadcast during second quarter 2011, 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 (excluding guest editorials) also aired three times – between 5P and 11P, during commercial breaks - on the date indicated on WMYO.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EDITORIALS WERE ONE MINUTE AND THIRTY SECONDS IN LENGTH.

Economy – Jobs and Development

What Do You Think of the YUM! Center Now? (4/19)
What Do You Think of the YUM! Center Now? – Phone Response (4/20)
The Derby Festival Can Use a Hand (5/5)
Go See the Fortune Teller (5/12)
Darts & Laurels (6/2)
The Kentucky How is a Must-See Movie (6/23)
Building Bridges – Won't Somebody Lead? (6/30)

Politics

Neighborhood Fund Grants – Still a Good Idea (4/14)
Williams and Farmer Pulling in Opposite Directions (4/26)
Williams and Farmer Pulling in Opposite Directions – Phone Response (4/27)
A Setback for Terror (5/3)
A Setback for Terror – Phone Response(5/4)
Pakistan – Paying the Price (5/10)
Pakistan – Paying the Price – Phone Response (5/11)
Mitch Daniels – True to Himself (5/26)
Keep the Election Civil (5/31)
Keep the Election Civil (6/1)
The Fischer Budget – A Solid Start (6/9)
Don't Be a Weiner – Protect Your Character (6/16)
Discretionary Funds – Still a Good Idea (6/28)
Discretionary Funds – Still a Good Idea – Phone Response (6/28)

Education

School Suspensions – Parental Dysfunction (4/5)
School Suspensions – Parental Dysfunction – Phone Response (4/6)

Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child (4/7)
College Doesn't Have to be Unaffordable (5/24)
College Doesn't Have to be Unaffordable – Phone Response (5/24)
Put Educational Excellence First (6/14)
Put Educational Excellence First – Phone Response (6/14)

Public Health and Safety

Food Stamps for Fast Food (4/12)
Food Stamps for Fast Food – Phone Response (4/12)
Guest Editorial – Child Abuse (4/22)
Weather Warnings No Cause for Glee (4/28)
The Rules of the Road Work Both Ways (5/16)
Tobacco's Newest Big Lie (5/17)
Tobacco's Newest Big Lie – Phone Response (5/17)
Don't Leave Kids Unattended in a Hot Car (6/7)
Don't Leave Kids Unattended in a Hot Car – Phone Response (6/7)

Crime and the Courts

Falsely Playing the Race Card Hurts All of Us (6/21)
Falsely Playing the Race Card Hurts All of Us – Phone Response (6/21)

ECONOMY - JOBS & DEVELOPMENT

What Do You Think of the YUM! Center Now? (4/19/11)

My wife Becky and I went to the YUM! Center last Friday night to see a concert. And I was reminded as I sat with 22,000 other people, that there were a significant number of people who thought a new arena was unnecessary – that it shouldn't be built. Or if it was to be built, it should be someplace other than on the riverfront.

But because we have this arena, we have been able to attract the biggest names in music. Big, legendary acts like George Strait and Reba McEntire, The Eagles, and Elton John. Some of the biggest names in contemporary music have either been here or are on their way such as Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Katy Perry. So we're getting the chance to see acts that simply used to skip Louisville altogether before the YUM! Center.

Downtown is bustling. Thousands of people go into the restaurants and pubs before and after these concerts and basketball games. When everything was out at Freedom Hall, people tended to go to the event and go home. Now the whole economic has changed.

At least that's my point of view. But I have a question for *you*: If you were one of those people who thought a new arena was a bad idea, call us and tell us what you think now. Have you changed your mind, or not? I would love to hear what you think almost 7 months after it has opened.

What Do You Think of the YUM! Center Now? – Capsule **(4/19/11)**

Friday night, the Yum! Center again proved it was more than just a seasonal basketball arena by hosting another legendary artist – this time Elton John – who attracted over 22,000 people, most of whom packed into downtown bars and restaurants both before and after the show.

This made me wonder if any of the people who opposed the new arena have changed their minds since it opened.

Derby Festival Can Use a Hand (5/5/11)

With the unrelenting rain that's caused the cancellation, postponement or "creative adaptation" of so many events, it's safe to say the Derby Festival has never faced so much adversity.

Still, we've heard no complaints from Festival workers. They've uniformly assumed a "grin and bear it" attitude and found ways to work around just about every problem.

Some people have been upset with the Derby Festival that the weather has crimped their plans this year. Anger at the Festival is not only misplaced but inappropriate. I promise you that their frustration is a hundred times higher than yours. To you it's a diversion, a moment of entertainment. To them it's a year's worth of work in jeopardy of being washed away.

And there's no question the weather *has* seriously cut into revenue the Festival counts on from Chow Wagon and merchandise sales.

That's why it's important to remind ourselves that this annual celebration isn't supported by tax dollars. It exists because of the financial backing of businesses and individuals alike. It exists because of the efforts of a year-round staff and hundreds of unpaid volunteers -- who all exhibit flexibility, creativity, patience and urgency in just the right combination.

Look, the Derby Festival isn't an entitlement, but a privilege. It isn't just *for* us. It *is* us. And that's what makes it so special.

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

Go See “The Fortune Teller” (5/12/11)

One of the great things about Louisville is that despite its moderate size, it boasts many of the kinds of sophisticated attractions you’d normally expect in much bigger cities.

And a perfect case in point is the exhibition of the rare Caravaggio painting, “The Fortune Teller,” which will be on view at the Speed Art Museum beginning next Wednesday.

Far from being just a small part of an extended tour, this is one of the few local cultural events that can truly be called unique. Because aside from being on view for a short four-day stay in New York, this rare painting will be exhibited in only *one* museum during its short visit to America -- and that museum is the Speed.

Rarely ever seen outside Italy, “The Fortune Teller” is one of the art world’s top treasures. And this event will really help boost Louisville’s profile far outside our own boundaries as art lovers from across North America visit to take advantage of what is likely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Luckily for us, we can experience this exhibit right here in our own backyard -- but only until June 5. So I hope everyone who cares at all about art will make every effort to visit the Speed while it’s here, and hopefully establish the demand for our city to host many similar events in the future.

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

Darts and Laurels (6/2/11)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

Today's first Laurel goes to Norton Healthcare CEO Steve Williams, who recently received the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award.

Yes, it's a mouthful. But it's also well-deserved recognition for Steve's leadership, creative management and contributions to the development of others in health care, and provides further evidence of just how lucky we are to have him in our community.

Meanwhile, a Dart goes to the city of Louisville for its dismal showing in the most recent American Fitness Index. Largely due to unacceptable local smoking and obesity levels and our citizens' relative disdain for exercise, we managed to rank 49th out of a total of 50 American cities – an embarrassing showing by any measure.

All I can say is, thank goodness for Oklahoma City.

And finally, another Laurel goes to the Louisville Metro Housing Authority for winning a 22 million dollar federal grant allowing it to move forward on its grand plan to raze the Sheppard Square Projects and replace them with a mixed-income neighborhood. That area of town is long overdue for a major facelift, and if the improvements we saw when the Clarksdale projects made way for Liberty Green are duplicated on the south side of Broadway, it'll be another big boost to the center city.

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

The Kentucky Show is a Must See Movie (6/23/11)

It's human nature that we tend to focus on the problems around us. I do it too. I do too many Point of View editorials polishing the rough side of the stone. Not enough noticing the wonderful things around me. So allow me a moment to share something special with you.

Earlier this week I was invited to see The Kentucky Show at the Kentucky Center. It is an inspiring, entertaining movie – about 30 minutes long – that celebrates Kentucky as the first western frontier through the Civil War up to the present. The photography is just gorgeous and I'll tell you what: it makes you proud to live in Kentucky. It's also exactly the movie you should take your out of town friends and relatives to see. But it's not a movie just for tourists. Everyone will experience new things about Kentucky whether you've lived here for one year or 100.

A lot of people gave their talents to make this movie happen and the result is spectacular. It is showing every day of the week except Monday, every hour on the hour from 11 o'clock until 4.

I have no financial stake in this movie, nor am I on the board. I'm just a guy who thinks that sometimes we've got to find a beautiful little oasis and focus on that for a while. The Kentucky Show is a wonderful little oasis.

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

Building Bridges – Won't SOMEBODY Lead? (6/30/11)

Awhile back in one of my editorials, I said this:

“Our elected officials absolutely cannot seem to get anything done. They talk about building two new bridges but more than a year after supposedly securing funds, not one shovel of dirt has been turned over.”

You know what's scary about that?

That Point of View aired on Valentines Day...2006. More than five years ago. And even though many of the officials involved have changed, we're no closer to building those bridges now than we were then.

Never have I seen a public project beset by more stall tactics, indecision and wimpy leadership than this one. The constant delays have cost us millions of dollars in money already spent, and *billions* of dollars in the projected final cost of the project. And yet no one in power seems willing to step up and *lead*.

I'm tired of the inaction. Building bridges is one of the basic functions of government, and if our elected officials claim to be leaders, they should be out in front on this instead of hiding in the shadows hoping someone else will go first.

We'll never come up with a plan that will satisfy everyone. So it's time for those in charge to stop trying and finally make some hard choices so we can move on.

Because I don't want to be doing this same editorial in five more years.

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

POLITICS

Neighborhood Fund Grants – Still a Good Idea (4/14/11)

Each member of Louisville's Metro Council currently receives \$75,000 annually in Neighborhood Fund Grants to spend on projects within their districts that are in the public interest. Judy Green's recent controversy has caused some to call for the elimination of these grants. But I believe they still serve a valid purpose.

These funds aren't distributed with no oversight. All discretionary spending by council members under \$5,000 must be approved by the appropriations committee, and all spending *over* \$5,000 must be approved by the entire Metro Council.

However, once the funds have been spent, an audit of the use of those funds has occurred less often than it should have. But that's a reason to correct the *process* – not do away with the grants completely.

The Courier Journal has suggested we should put all this money in a pot to be allocated by a Citizen's committee, but aren't our elected officials the very people we chose to make these decisions? I think these grants are important because they allow the people who are in the best position to know their districts to steer public money in directions where it's most needed.

Without proper accountability, these Neighborhood Fund Grants *would* be a bad idea. But as long as that's covered, I think they represent an effective way of distributing public money wisely and equitably.

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

Williams and Farmer Pulling in Opposite Directions (4/26/11)

When David Williams chose Richie Farmer as his running mate in this year's gubernatorial election, it seemed to make sense. But some of Farmer's recent fiscal follies have to be making Williams squirm.

To his credit, Williams has made it clear he'll require all state senators to return the pay they received for the just-completed special session. This tells me Williams recognizes when money hasn't been rightfully earned and has the will to correct the situation.

But Richie Farmer has been sending a very different message.

First, he refused to join all other statewide elected officials in voluntarily taking part in the unpaid furlough days that are required of *all other* state employees, saying he "doesn't agree with them."

And now we learn that he billed the state nearly \$1,700 for a hotel suite and other expenses so he could "do business" in Lexington during the Boy's Sweet Sixteen tournament – even though he lives less than 30 miles away!

In a state like Kentucky, voters relate best to officials who use their tax money frugally – not those who exude an aura of privilege and entitlement. So given that Williams is serious about wanting to be governor, he'd better get his running mate on the same page quickly -- or off the ballot entirely.

Call and tell us how you feel.

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

Williams and Farmer Pulling in Opposite Directions – Capsule (4/26/11)

Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer seems to have a hard time relating to the financial concerns of regular people.

He not only refused to share the sacrifice of all state employees by taking an unpaid furlough day, but then turned around and billed the state almost \$1,700 so he could stay in a Lexington hotel suite for four days, even though he lives less than 30 miles away.

Given those missteps, Kentucky Senate President David Williams has to be concerned about choosing him as a running mate in the upcoming governor's election.

A Setback for Terror (5/3/11)

Sunday night's news that Osama bin Laden had been located and killed was certainly cause for celebration. But our joy should be tempered by a couple of facts.

First, while no Americans died in *this* mission, *thousands* have lost their lives in the war against terror since it began.

And since bin Laden's followers are unlikely to completely abandon their "Holy War," there will surely be more deaths to come.

Still, praise is definitely owed to our leaders -- past and present -- and all our military personnel who refused to abandon the fight in an age when it's become all too easy to quit in the face of frustration. And I believe the decision to immediately dispose of bin Laden's body at sea was a wise one, since any gravesite could have become a rallying point for other terrorists.

Most importantly, we must remember that -- as President Obama said -- our ongoing war is not against Islam, but radical Islamic terrorists. Bin Laden was a mass murderer of Muslims *and* non-Muslims alike. So his demise should be welcomed by *all* who believe in peace and human dignity.

But what were *your* feelings when you learned of bin Laden's death? Were you joyful? Relieved? Satisfied that justice was done? Did it give you a feeling of closure? Or did it make you more fearful of retaliation?

Call and let us know your reactions.

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

A Setback for Terror – Capsule (5/3/11)

While our leaders and military deserve praise for the operation that killed Osama bin Laden, we should remember that *thousands* of Americans have been killed in the War of Terror – a war that's still not over.

We must also remember our war is not against Islam, but radical Islamic terrorists. Bin Laden's demise should be welcomed by *all* who believe in peace and human dignity.

What were your reactions when you heard of his death?

Pakistan – Paying the Price (5/10/11)

So far, President Obama has been careful not to directly accuse Pakistan's government of aiding Osama bin Laden prior to the raid in which he was killed. But given the relatively prominent location of his compound, it's clear that *someone* within the country had to have known where he was and kept it a secret for a long time.

Which raises the question: If it *is* determined that Pakistan's government played a role in sheltering bin Laden, how should America respond?

Pakistan has received over 20 billion dollars in military and other aid from the U.S. just since 2002. Yet it's also a country that has provided continuing safe haven for numerous Taliban and other radical Islamist militant groups during that same time. Our current alliance with them *is* a stabilizing factor within that troubled region, but where does foreign aid end and blackmail begin?

Personally, I think it's naïve to believe the Pakistani government *didn't* play some role in sheltering bin Laden. That's why I think President Obama was smart not to inform the Pakistanis of the raid on bin Laden's hideout in advance.

If Pakistan's government DID provide aid to bin Laden, I think they should pay a serious price.

But what should it be? A total cutoff of financial aid? Military action to unseat the current leaders? Or something else?

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Pakistan – Paying the Price – Capsule (5/10/11)

So far, President Obama hasn't directly accused Pakistan's government of helping hide Osama bin Laden before he was found and killed. But I think it's clear he did get help from *someone*. And if it *was* the Pakistani government, they should have to pay a price.

What should it be? An end to our generous financial aid? Military action to unseat the current leaders? Or something else?

Mitch Daniels – True To Himself (5/26/11)

I've often said that anyone who's willing to go through all the character assassination and loss of privacy that's necessary to run for President is probably too crazy to hold the job. And although he didn't use those words during his announcement that he wouldn't be running, I get the impression that Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels agrees.

While certainly no sure thing, Daniels embodies the qualities that could have made him a real contender for the Republicans. He's smart and accomplished. He's popular in his state and has served it well. He appears scandal-free. And while he's played to the conservative base by supporting school vouchers and anti-abortion legislation he's also reached across party lines by proposing tax increases for the wealthy and a truce on social issues.

In short, he's a man of complexity and nuance – not a mindless mouthpiece for anyone's party line. But – sad to say – that kind of maturity doesn't seem to play well in these days of “politics as blood sport.” And he's smart enough to realize it.

In announcing his decision, Governor Daniels said “Simply put, I find myself caught between two duties. I love my country; I love my family more.”

I think it's a shame our system has gotten to the point where qualified candidates are forced to make such an “either-or” choice. But I'm glad there are still people with enough self-awareness to make it wisely.

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

Keep the Election Civil (5/31/11)

Last week, our local paper ran an article predicting what we can expect from the Kentucky race for Governor between Steve Beshear and David Williams. In it, UK political scientist Steve Voss was quoted as saying he expects Williams will “have to get nasty,” and that “he has no choice.”

Well, I believe Senator Williams *definitely* has a choice. And if he hopes to run strongly in November, I’d encourage him to skip the nastiness.

Why shouldn’t he? After 24 years in public office it’s not as if he doesn’t have any accomplishments of his own to speak of. Williams has presided over the State Senate since 2000 with an indisputably strong hand. He’s won national awards as “Legislator of the Year.” And he’s undeniably popular in his home region and many others throughout the state.

Meanwhile, Kentucky’s voters have been subjected to so much mud-slinging for so long now that I’m convinced they’ve had enough.

So my advice to Senator Williams – and Governor Beshear, for that matter – is to keep it positive this time around. Since the winner will be officially referred to as “The Honorable (fill in the blank),” it’d be nice to think both men will conduct themselves during the campaign in a way that actually earns that title.

What do you think? Are you sick of negative campaigning or does it help you make a choice?

Call and let us know.

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

Keep the Election Civil – Capsule (5/31/11)

Some political pundits are saying State Senator David Williams has to run a nasty, negative campaign to have any chance against Steve Beshear in this year's race for governor, but I disagree. Kentucky's voters have endured enough mud-slinging.

Both Williams and Beshear have real accomplishments they can talk about, and I'd rather hear about those than the shortcomings of their opponent.

The Fischer Budget – A Solid Start (6/9/11)

If Mayor Greg Fischer's recent budget proposal for Metro Louisville is any indication of his true priorities and fitness to lead, I'm very pleased with what I see.

Will everyone love it? Of course not – and that's the point. Fischer knows things like eliminating raises and requiring one-week furloughs are bound to upset a lot of people. But he also knows another year without raising taxes or fees doesn't come without a cost.

While many will question his expenditures on economic development, education and training when other projects are being cut, he knows these are all key elements of expanding our tax base, which is the only *long-term* solution to our economic crunch.

And he also understands that when there's not enough to go around, essential government services like police, fire protection and garbage collection must always take priority over discretionary items.

But what I really admire is Fischer's honesty in noting that this year's austere budget could be just the beginning, and that next year we could be seeing much bigger cuts in programs many have come to take for granted.

That's not a warm and fuzzy feel-good message. But it's the kind of thing we all need to know so we can plan ahead. And I'm glad he understands the value – and power – of straight talk.

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

Falsely Playing the Race Card Hurts All of Us – Capsule (6/21/11)

Judy Green is about to get kicked off the Metro Council after being found guilty of several ethics and fraud violations, but she's not going quietly. Instead, she's claiming that people are out to get her, and that she's only being punished because of her race.

That's not only ridiculous, but it makes it that much harder for people who truly *are* victims of discrimination to be taken seriously. And good people of all races should reject such a dishonest argument.

Don't Be a Weiner – Protect Your Character (6/16/11)

Congressman Anthony Weiner from New York has gotten himself into the kind of trouble that has, once again, ended a once-promising political career. What did he do that was so wrong and more importantly, what can we learn from it?

Congressman Weiner developed a dialog with a few women on the internet and sent them some suggestive pictures. So what? That stuff is really none of our concern.

Does it show questionable judgment? Maybe, but in the big scheme of things who cares? He wasn't elected because his constituents thought they had finally found a moral beacon.

No, he was washed out of Congress and will be forgotten not because he sent some questionable pictures but because he lied about it. The Watergate scandal proved that the cover-up is almost always worse than the misdeed. In other words, we may be able to live with the poor judgment, but we cannot live with the lies.

The lesson for *us* is that when we stumble – and we will – our “go to” move should not be to lie about it. We will be better people if we'll just take responsibility for our errors, take whatever punishment we have earned, and go on with our lives in an honorable way. Maybe we can't change the character of everyone – there will always be Weiners out there – but few things should be more important than protecting our own character.

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

Discretionary Funds – Still a Good Idea (6/28/11)

I'm all for public officials being responsible with public money. But I also think micro-managing how literally every dollar is spent can create more problems than it solves.

Since Metro Council member Judy Green's misappropriation of funds became public, our local paper seems to have become paranoid about virtually every nickel and dime spent by city officials. And that's regrettable, because I don't believe we should make policy based on the exception to the rule.

Here's the truth: The vast majority of our elected officials sought their jobs for the right reason – to make our community a better place. They give their time and talent to serve us, but we need to meet them halfway by giving them the tools they need to do it.

The discretionary funds allotted to city officials are one of those tools -- relatively small amounts intended to give them a certain amount of flexibility in how they serve their constituents without having to submit every minor decision to a hearing or a vote. That's an efficient arrangement.

When we do find evidence of fraud -- as we did with Judy Green -- then appropriate action should be taken. But we have to give our elected officials the necessary resources to do their job and a certain amount of trust they'll do it properly.

Because automatically assuming everyone's a thief is not only cynical. It's dead wrong.

Call and tell us what you think.

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

Discretionary Funds – Still a Good Idea - Capsule (6/28/11)

Since the recent Judy Green scandal, some people are questioning whether our elected officials should even HAVE discretionary funds. But I think they give them the flexibility necessary to serve their constituents without having to submit every minor decision to a hearing or a vote.

Everyone isn't a crook, and we need to give our officials the tools they need to do their jobs and trust they'll use them properly.

EDUCATION

School Suspensions – Parental Dysfunction (4/5/11)

The many serious problems plaguing the Jefferson County School System should have us worried -- because they directly damage society by interfering with our children's ability to become prepared to lead the next generation.

That's why we at Fox 41 plan to focus on these problems relentlessly in the coming months – in our editorials *and* our news coverage. And the most recent eye-opening revelation concerns school discipline.

Monday, Fox 41 News reported that JCPS imposed over 15,000 student suspensions last school year. That's shocking enough, but when you consider the school system has a financial incentive to keep as many kids in school as possible every day, you have to assume the level of unacceptable behavior is even higher.

And who's to blame? The parents.

Now I know most parents *do* teach their children to respect authority figures – and each other – and they should be treasured. But that still leaves far too many parents who know little about the responsibility of raising kids and seem to care even less.

The schools offer a place to learn. But the schools are powerless unless the students have been *prepared* to learn. JCPS has plenty of faults, but this is one that can't be fixed on their end no matter how many excellent teachers they hire. How can we get more parents to hold up their end of the social contract?

Call, and share your thoughts.

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

Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child

I figure it's about time for a good, old fashioned, politically incorrect editorial that ticks a few people off.

Earlier in the week Fox 41 News ran a story about JCPS suspending over 15,000 kids last year for anything from inappropriate to illegal behavior. This is a much bigger problem than when I was a kid and certainly bigger than when my parents were children. So what did our parents or grandparents do differently back when the problems were much less common?

For one thing, they were there for us. They required that we do our homework and they attended parent/teacher conferences. For another, they made it clear that respecting adults was not optional.

My parents were loving, caring people, but if we misbehaved they didn't throw empty threats at us. They followed up and taught us that misbehaving has consequences.

They didn't know what "time outs" were. They carefully administered swift and sure smacks on the behind.

If we used inappropriate or disrespectful language we got a bar of soap stuck in our mouth.

If we misbehaved in school there were consequences for that behavior, not only at school but when we got home too.

I *am* talking about sure and swift correction for behaving badly because I know this: When misbehavior is not punished in the formative years it becomes a way of life later on.

I'm Bill Lamb...and that's my old fashioned point of view.

College Doesn't Have to be Unaffordable (5/24/11)

Recently, some pundits have claimed that the huge debt many people assume to pay for higher education makes college a potentially bad deal.

But here's what I think:

College isn't a "one size fits all" experience. Sure, you can send junior off to a private school where room, board and tuition will cost well over six-figures. But there are also much more modest ways to get that diploma.

In-state, public institutions like U of L or UK – while still not cheap – offer much lower tuition. And if a student can live at home, the deal becomes even more economical.

No, the experiences aren't the same. A degree from Harvard with summers spent studying in Europe is certainly more prestigious than living in mom and dad's basement and working a part-time job while commuting to and from Belknap Campus.

But in either case, the *motivated* student gets what he came for – a quality education and diploma that'll make him far more marketable in the job market than he could hope to be otherwise.

I don't favor going into crippling debt to finance a college education. But with the right combination of advance saving and realistic aspirations, I think most students can avoid that trap. And I still think it's one of the best investments they could make.

But how about you? Call and tell us how *you* feel about the value of a college education.

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

College Doesn't Have to be Unaffordable – Capsule (5/24/11)

Some claim higher education's escalating cost is turning college into a potentially bad deal.

But even though four years away from home at an expensive private school can be unattainable for many, lower tuitions at in-state schools, living at home and saving in advance can keep things relatively affordable. And I still think a college diploma is still well worth the time and money.

Put Educational Excellence First (6/14/11)

We're down to two candidates to become the next Jefferson County School Superintendent. And the local NAACP is unhappy with both of them.

They claim neither has taken a clear stand on the school system's student assignment plan. And because of that, they're afraid segregation could re-occur if either winds up in charge.

But let's make a distinction here. While neither of these women have so far proclaimed their unquestioning support of the current convoluted scheme that wastes untold money and hours to transport kids miles and miles from home every day, that doesn't make them opponents of diversity. Maybe they just understand there's more than one possible way of achieving it. And that if a better idea were proposed, it would deserve consideration.

Maybe they're also reluctant to express a strong opinion about something so complicated without having the opportunity to give it the close study and attention it deserves. If so, I see that as a positive – not a negative.

In any case, while I understand the need to address past inequities, I think when diversity statistics are given precedence over educational excellence, *every* student suffers. And I hope our next Superintendent, whoever it is, will be chosen on the basis of how well-equipped they are to see that *all* our children receive a quality education, regardless of the school they attend.

Call and tell us what *you're* looking for in our next Superintendent.

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

Put Educational Excellence First – Capsule (6/14/11)

The local NAACP is unhappy with both finalists for the Jefferson County School Superintendent job because neither has taken a clear stand on the system's student assignment plan.

But it's a leap to say that failing to give unqualified support to a plan as complicated and controversial as the one currently in place is proof that they oppose diversity.

When diversity statistics are given precedence over educational excellence, *every* student suffers.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Food Stamps for Fast Food? (4/12/11)

Louisville-based YUM! Brands is lobbying to make Kentucky just the fourth state to allow restaurants to accept food stamps from recipients who are elderly, disabled or homeless. They claim that since these are people who face difficulty in preparing their own food, they'd benefit from having this new source for a hot meal.

Some strongly oppose the idea, but I can see where it makes a certain amount of sense.

In response to complaints about the general unhealthiness of fast food, let's remember that food stamp recipients are already free to use them at the grocery for all sorts of unhealthy stuff, like doughnuts, soft drinks and candy. And really – what are homeless people supposed to do with the fresh vegetables and meat available at the store when they have no place to keep or cook it?

On the other hand, there's no question that fast food meals *are* less economical than food a person prepares for himself. Which means food stamp dollars would be used up even quicker than they are now.

While no one can deny the ingenuity of YUM! Brands for suggesting it, it's a complicated issue with plenty of pros *and* cons. But it certainly addresses some of the problems with the *current* food stamp set-up. I still have my reservations about several aspects of the plan, but hey -- maybe it's worth trying.

What do you think? Call and tell us.

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

Food Stamps for Fast Food? – Capsule (4/12/11)

While YUM! Brands proposal to allow restaurants to accept food stamps from the elderly, disabled and homeless has its drawbacks, it also presents some positive solutions that our current food stamp plan doesn't.

It may not be a perfect idea, but if it makes hot meals more accessible to people who have a hard time preparing them, maybe it's worth trying.

Guest Editorial – Child Abuse (4/22/11)

While I'm speaking to you, a child is being abused or neglected somewhere in Kentucky.

Too often, we hear of a young child being hospitalized, or even worse, killed because of abuse suffered at the hands of a parent or other relative. In fact, a recent report indicates that Kentucky leads the nation in the number of deaths of children from abuse.

Whether it's physical, emotional or sexual, abuse leaves children with life-long scars and that abuse often carries over from one generation to the next. We must break this cycle of violence and neglect.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sunrise Children's Services is proud to join other child advocacy groups to help raise awareness of a problem that can no longer be ignored. We must take a stand and help these children.

At Sunrise, we help children who are in crisis find refuge through a statewide network of foster homes and residential programs. We also strive to be proactive in helping families through in-home counseling and other services.

No child should ever be the victim of abuse or neglect. Instead, every child should be able to enjoy a home that's built on love and support. If you'd like to know more about our efforts in this cause or how you can take a stand, log onto our website at www.sunrise.org.

Most importantly, if you know of a child who you think may be suffering from abuse or neglect, call the state's toll-free child abuse hotline at 1-877-597-2331.

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

Weather Warnings No Cause for "Glee" (04-28-11)

Coverage of severe weather Tuesday night caused WDRB to pre-empt "Glee." And that, unfortunately, sparked a flood of phone and email complaints, far too many of which were abusive, insulting or obscene. One said, and I quote, "We don't care about your southern viewers. Let someone else handle it."

Well, let me respond by saying -- we can't afford to be that selfish.

Everyone who got so upset needs to understand three things:

First, when severe weather threatens *any* portion of our viewing area, WDRB will *always* go with live coverage of the situation over regular programming. When forced to choose between entertainment and life saving information, information always wins.

Second, our viewing area encompasses 24 counties in Kentucky and 12 in Indiana. Just because your street isn't affected doesn't mean no one is.

And third, if you watched any of our competitors Tuesday night, you saw them take the same approach we did. They're also professionals who understand what it means to "broadcast in the public interest."

Anyone who thinks we irritate viewers deliberately doesn't have a clue about our business. We lost more than \$20,000 in commercial revenue in that single evening, and believe me, that's not something any company takes lightly. But when public safety is at risk, money takes a back seat too.

And by the way, the episode of "Glee" you missed on Tuesday will air on WDRB Sunday evening at 5:00.

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

The Rules of the Road Work Both Ways (5/19/11)

We're often told – correctly -- that drivers need to treat semi-truck drivers and their vehicles with respect. But that goes both ways. And I think some of those semi drivers could stand to be reminded of a few rules of the road *they* often ignore.

For instance, you should be courteous and move to the left lane when another vehicle is entering an on-ramp. You're very good about doing this when the other vehicle is another semi, but not so good when it's just a plain old car or truck.

The laws of physics say if you're going uphill, you're going to slow down. So in those instances, it would make sense *not* to pull out in the left lane to pass another semi, backing up traffic for miles.

Talking on a cell phone and texting while driving is just as dangerous for you as it is for me. Probably more so, given your greater potential for destruction.

And finally, please remember that you *are* responsible for a potential “weapon of mass destruction.” And when you ignore the law or drive under the influence or while sleepy, you not only jeopardize your life but the lives of everyone else on the road.

Many – if not most – big rig drivers are excellent. But the relative minority of bad apples are still capable of wreaking terrible havoc. And I hope they'll take these suggestions to heart.

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

Tobacco's Newest Big Lie (5/17/11)

In the constant fight between anti-smoking forces and those who still cling to the habit, both sides have often stretched the truth to support their position. But few statements have been more insulting to the public's intelligence than the one made by Philip Morris CEO Louis Camilleri last week.

Camilleri – himself a dedicated smoker – said, with a straight face, that while he admitted cigarettes are harmful and addictive, “it’s not that hard to quit.”

Could he really believe this? Or is he just so desperate to defend his industry that he’s willing to tell any lie in the hope that *someone* will believe it?

Numerous studies have proven that tobacco is among the *most* addictive substances in the world. Some say more than even meth, crack cocaine or heroin.

Ask anyone who has tried to break the habit if it really was “not that hard.” I guarantee you’ll be told it was one of the most difficult things they’ve ever done. And in many cases, they still haven’t.

Camilleri dismissed the difficulty of quitting by saying “There are more previous smokers in America today than current smokers.” But how many would-be current smokers are no longer with us because they *couldn't* quit?

As long as they’re legal, Mr. Calilleri has every right to sell cigarettes. But selling us a bill of goods is quite another matter.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

Tobacco's Newest Big Lie – Capsule (5/17/11)

Last week, when Philip Morris CEO Louis Camilleri said “it’s not that hard to quit” smoking, I think he was insulting everyone’s intelligence. It’s been proven that tobacco is one the most addictive substances in the world, and virtually anyone who’s ever tried to quit smoking will tell you it’s one of the hardest things they’ve ever done.

Mr. Camilleri has the right to sell cigarettes. But he shouldn’t be selling a big lie.

Don't Leave Kids Unattended in Hot Cars! (6/7/11)

I have a message to the terminally stupid people who live amongst us. I'm talking to the selfish dimwits who leave their kids in a closed car during heat waves like this one.

There was the couple that had to go to the strip club and being thoughtful, they didn't want to take their child in with them. So they left the child in a closed car. Brilliant. Fortunately the child was discovered before he died.

There was the Louisville mother charged with murder after leaving her young son in a hot car for hours. He died.

And over the weekend two numbskulls left two young kids in the car when they went inside a store. What were they doing that was so important? They went in to get their pictures taken. Well there you go. There are your pictures.

What are you people thinking? Well I'll tell you: You're not thinking. You can't do this. Not for just a few minutes. Not ever. Children are at increased risk for hypothermia because their small bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's.

Last year, there were 49 deaths of this type in the United States.

These mouth breathers should be sterilized even before they're punished.

What do you think of these morons? Call us and share your thoughts. Unless you're one of the morons. I don't need to hear from you.

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

Don't Leave Kids Unattended in Hot Cars! – Capsule (6/7/11)

What are all these people who leave little kids unattended in hot cars thinking?

I'll tell you – they're NOT thinking. They're simply selfish numbskulls who are – unbelievably – willing to jeopardize the lives of their children for the sake of their own convenience.

When caught, they should be severely punished. But sterilizing them first might be an even better idea.

CRIME / COURTS

Falsely Playing the Race Card Hurts All of Us (6/21/11)

Judy Green is about to get kicked off the Metro Council, but she is not going quietly.

Ms. Green is now officially guilty of several ethics and fraud violations. An independent ethics commission said so after a full and careful review of the information. They found that she tried to game the system so that she and some people close to her could benefit from money they were not entitled to. Ms. Green is fighting to keep her seat, but she must fight fair.

Instead, she is just embarrassing herself. First, Ms. Green claimed that someone was out to get her. No kidding? That's what people do when we find cheats and scammers in our midst. We tend to want to get rid of them.

Worse still, she is allowing people around her to play the race card. This is outrageous. Green is trying to claim that she is only being punished because of her race. The problem when people make false discrimination claims like this one is that they make it so much more difficult for people who *truly are* victims of discrimination to be heard and taken seriously. Good people everywhere, people of *every* color, should wash their hands of someone who invokes the race card to cover up their own fraud.

What do you think? Is Judy Green a victim or is she just crying wolf? Call us and let us know.

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