

The following editorials were broadcast during third 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

NASCAR Rides in the Slow Lane (7/12)
NASCAR Rides in the Slow Lane – Phone Response (7/13)
River Fields – Time To Get Out of The Way (7/14)
The National Debt – The Scale of the Problem (8/11)
Darts and Laurels (8/25)
The Louisville Orchestra – Flirting With Irrelevancy (9/22)
Bridge Situation at the Breaking Point (9/20)
Bridge Situation at the Breaking Point – Phone Response (9/21)
Guest Editorial – David Jones on Bridges (9/27)
Guest Editorial – David Jones on Bridges – Phone Response (9/28)

Politics

The Debate Over the Debt Ceiling is a Sad Affair (7/21)
Tone-Deaf Politicians Aren't Hearing the American People (7/28)
Raise Taxes, But Equitably (8/2)
Raise Taxes, But Equitably – Phone Response (8/3)
Shame on our Leaders (8/9)
Shame on our Leaders – Phone Response (8/10)
Civility at Fancy Farm (8/16)
Civility at Fancy Farm – Phone Response (8/17)
Darts and Laurels (8/25)
Politics is More Than a Game (9/1)
Kentucky Kingdom Needs Political Leadership (9/6)
Kentucky Kingdom Needs Political Leadership – Phone Response (9/7)
America's Future – No Guarantees (9/15)

Education

School Board Needs a Shake-Up (7/19)

School Board Needs a Shake-Up – Phone Response (7/20)

Darts and Laurels (8/4)

School Tax is No Big Deal (8/23)

School Tax is No Big Deal – Phone Response (8/24)

Stealing by Any Other Name is Still Stealing (8/30)

Stealing by Any Other Name is Still Stealing – Phone Response (8/31)

Public Health and Safety

Beware the French Poodle Generation (7/5)

Beware the French Poodle Generation – Phone Response (7/6)

Darts and Laurels (7/7)

Why Bargain Away a Public Asset? (7/26)

Why Bargain Away a Public Asset? - Phone Response (7/27)

Darts and Laurels (8/4)

Heroism in the Face of Disaster (8/18)

Animal Shelter Cover-Up (9/13)

Animal Shelter Cover-Up – Phone Response (9/14)

Guest Editorial – Jeffersonville Animal Shelter (9/23)

**ECONOMY-JOBS &
DEVELOPMENT**

NASCAR Rides in the Slow Lane (7/12/11)

Well, this past weekend Kentucky Speedway finally got the NASCAR Sprint Cup race it's been pursuing for years. But given the massive traffic disaster that ensued, I can't imagine a better illustration of the old warning, "Be careful what you wish for."

This was a textbook example of bad planning at its worst. Even though track owner Bruton Smith called I-71 "the worst Interstate in America" on Friday, there was no attempt to publicize alternate routes to the track. There clearly wasn't adequate parking space to serve a Sprint Cup crowd. And considering Smith predicted the race would attract more people than the Kentucky Derby, no one can say they were surprised by the turnout.

The simple fact is, Kentucky Speedway was completely unprepared to accommodate the number of people they – according to their pre-race boasts -- fully anticipated, and that's unconscionable. And despite the track's promise that next year will be better, anyone who experienced the magnitude of the problem has to wonder if they have the ability to make good on that pledge. Or if they should even be *given* a second chance.

I'd like to hear from the NASCAR fans out there. Should Kentucky Speedway be allowed to host future Sprint Cup events? If they do, will you give them a second chance? And if the answer is no, what would they have to do to change your mind?

Call and let us know.

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

River Fields – Time to Get Out of the Way (7/14/11)

On Wednesday, Humana founder David Jones – backed by many other community leaders – made a public plea to the members of River Fields to drop their suit against the proposed East End bridge. He said their delaying tactics – which have gone on for decades -- have resulted in massive cost increases, job losses and daily gridlock, and they should step out of the way for the good of the overall community.

And I couldn't agree more.

River Fields bases part of their opposition on environmental concerns. But they seem *unconcerned* about the current downtown bottleneck that massively pollutes our air every morning and evening.

Meanwhile, they also say there's not enough money to pay for the project. But how ironic is it that their stubborn opposition over the years has been one of the major *contributors* toward that huge price tag? Without their constant delays and demands for a special tunnel costing a quarter-*billion* dollars, we could have gotten this done a long time ago and a lot cheaper.

River Fields has been the tail wagging the dog in this community for too long. Regardless of their contrary claims, their efforts are aimed at insulating a tiny, privileged portion of the population from the effects of progress, and that can no longer be tolerated.

The world doesn't revolve around River Fields, nor should it. It's time they drop their harmful suit and join the rest of us in the real world.

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

The National Debt – The Scale of the Problem (8/11/11)

I'm sure people would be even angrier about the national debt situation if they truly understood its scale. But judging from some of the calls we've received, I'm convinced many don't realize just how far over the edge we've gone.

For instance, many insist the problem could be solved if we just cut lawmakers' salaries in half. But our current debt is approximately 14 TRILLION dollars. Sure, they make a lot. But does anyone really think our legislators earn a total of 28 trillion dollars a year?

Another person said we don't need any new taxes, but the government DOES need to confiscate any oil profits exceeding a certain amount.

Well, sorry, but that's a tax. And under that plan, if all the oil companies reached their maximum by, say, June, not many people would be driving to Grandma's for Christmas.

And a couple of people suggested cutting a single penny from every dollar of every government program. That couldn't hurt much – right? Except given our total 2012 budget, that would only equal about 36 billion dollars. That'd be like trying to pay off a \$300 debt 77 cents at a time – while the interest keeps accruing.

Yes, I complain about the debt. But it's not a simple problem. And only when we *really* understand its scale will there finally be enough urgency about solving it.

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

Darts and Laurels (8/25/11)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

Our first Laurel goes to Mary Moseley, President and CEO of the Al J. Schneider Companies, for arranging a deal to guarantee 20 million dollars worth of the loans necessary to reopen the Kentucky Kingdom amusement park. This could be the critical piece of the puzzle that allows developer Ed Hart to get the park back into operation by next summer, and Ms. Moseley should be commended for recognizing this project's value to the entire community.

But a Dart goes to Metro Council member Judy Green for her latest attempt to stall the investigation into her alleged ethics violations by claiming medical issues. According to her lawyer, Ms. Green was "admitted to an unnamed hospital for an undisclosed medical condition," which will make it necessary to postpone her hearing for at least a month.

If true, that would be sufficient reason to grant the delay. But given the fact that no one involved will provide any other details or confirmation of Ms. Green's condition by a medical professional, well...call me skeptical.

And finally, a Laurel goes to the North Oldham Little League team for making it all the way to this year's Little League World Series. Yes, they were eliminated Monday in a thriller against Georgia, but they still gave the hometown fans a lot to cheer about and deserve our congratulations.

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

The Louisville Orchestra – Flirting With Irrelevancy (9/22/11)

I haven't addressed the Louisville Orchestra labor dispute recently, mainly because I haven't had many new observations. But now that the Orchestra has announced the cancellation of its scheduled *November* performances – in addition to those already canceled – there's something both sides would be wise to note:

Specifically, that Louisville is learning to live without you.

I'm not saying the city is *better off* without you. But for the first time in many years, Louisvillians are experiencing life *without* an orchestra. And they're discovering that life really does go on. Arts patrons still have plenty of other live entertainment options such as Actors Theatre, the Ballet and the Opera. And they can also use that Orchestra subscription money to dine out a few more times or take in a ball game or two.

The point is, nature abhors a vacuum. The longer the adversaries in the Orchestra dispute refuse to agree, the vacuum they're leaving in the local arts scene is quickly filling up. And there are no guarantees they'll regain their piece of the pie when they finally return.

The Orchestra and its players need to realize that the classical music audience is not only passionate and loyal, but it's also relatively small. *Testing* its loyalty is hardly a wise strategy in an "out of sight, out of mind" world. And while a future without a Louisville Orchestra is certainly undesirable, it's definitely not unthinkable.

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

Bridge Situation at the Breaking Point (9/20/11)

Even though the Sherman Minton Bridge was closed indefinitely last week, sending tens of thousands of commuters in search of new ways to work each morning, we did a pretty good job of avoiding a total meltdown. Local officials quickly responded with a sensible plan that maximized traffic flow and drivers in general stayed reasonably patient and didn't panic.

But now, we're down to just *two* bridges linking Indiana and Kentucky. Neither of those was built to modern standards. And yet we're *still* no closer to getting any new bridges built in my lifetime.

If anyone still needs a clear illustration of just why we need to get off the dime and start building that east end bridge, this is certainly it. When the human body reaches a point where too much blood is forced to flow through arteries that are clogged, it needs a bypass. And the same is true of a community.

We're dealing with this setback reasonably well right now. But straining the system to the breaking point is a fool's game.

I don't know if this latest development will be enough to finally shame the bridge obstructionists into stepping aside. But if it isn't, you can be sure they don't have the best interests of the community at heart.

Do *you* think this will finally result in getting a new bridge started? Call and let us know.

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

Guest Editorial – David Jones on Bridges (9/27/11)

In President Eisenhower's 1950s national interstate highway program, three Ohio River bridges were planned for Louisville.

Two, the Sherman Minton and the Kennedy, were built, opening in the early 1960s.

The third, our eastern bridge, planned 52 years ago in 1959, has not yet begun.

Now, the Sherman Minton is closed and our community is in chaos.

Our first priority must be the repair and reopening of the Sherman Minton, but we don't know when that will happen.

Our originally planned six-lane eastern bridge, delayed for decades by a small but well-financed local group, is shovel-ready now. It must be begun now and completed promptly. And we don't need a \$250 million tunnel to save a \$2 million house!

We know it can be done, because Minneapolis recently replaced its collapsed Interstate highway 35W bridge in just 13 months.

Our elected leaders have the opportunity and the obligation to bring the urgency that propelled Minneapolis' remarkable feat. They must build now our 52-year delayed eastern bridge, and reopen the Sherman Minton as soon as possible.

Please call WDRB-TV to share your thoughts on this issue.

I'm David A. Jones, and that's my Point of View.

POLITICS

The Debate Over the Debt Ceiling is a Sad Affair (7/21/11)

The debate in Washington over the debt ceiling is a sad affair. With a pressing issue in need of resolution, the politicians we've sent there to tend to the nation's business cannot fix the problem.

Instead, they can only see this crisis as a way to either score political points or come out of it looking bad to voters. It is first and foremost leverage for power. For Republicans it is a juicy chance to make the President look bad. For Democrats, it's the leverage they need to raise taxes.

Well, I'm not running for anything. I'm neither a registered Republican nor a Democrat. So with no political agenda I'll tell you what I think we need to do.

First, we need to raise the debt ceiling slightly to make sure we don't default on any promises. Second, we need to begin the process of dramatically reducing what the government spends. The government simply can be everyone's safety net. Finally, we need to raise taxes slightly. Nobody said this mess would be easy to get out of and we must have some shared sacrifice. In 2009, 47% of Americans effectively paid zero federal taxes. That is simply not sustainable.

The shame here is that while nothing is being accomplished, and as the clock keeps ticking, both sides think they're winning. Well, I don't care who the winners are if the United States winds up losing.

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

Tone Deaf Politicians Aren't Hearing the American People **(7/28/11)**

A recent survey says 80% of American's are fed up with the way our elected leaders are handling the debt ceiling issue. Unfortunately, when Republicans hear that statistic they are thinking, "Great! America is getting fed up with Democrats! We're winning!" And when Democrats hear it they think, "Finally! The Republicans are ticking everybody off and now they'll give!"

The problem is that neither side thinks *they* are the problem. President Obama is right when he says compromise has become a dirty word in Washington, but most Americans think that's exactly what they must do. How can our politicians be so tone deaf to what the majority of people who elected them want?

Of course they aren't the only ones out of step. Yesterday our own daily newspaper actually said, "*The lunatics are firmly in control of the asylum. That's the only reasonable conclusion that Americans can...draw about the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.*"

The Democratic Party always comes first for the Courier, but I had hoped even they could see that *both* parties share blame for this impasse.

Many of you seem to be burning up the Internet and phone lines to Washington to let your representatives know you don't appreciate their lack of progress. Good for you. Keep it up. That's the only way we can be heard.

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

Raise Taxes, But Equitably (8/2/11)

No one could believe more than I do that there's no way to correct America's current economic dilemma without seriously cutting expenses. Over-generous entitlement programs, bloated defense spending, wasteful pork barrel projects – you name it, and we're spending far more than we should.

But this doesn't mean we can afford to simply do away with ALL entitlements, defense spending, or infrastructure maintenance. And the truth is, even if all our expenses were pared back to justifiable levels tomorrow, America isn't currently taking in enough money to pay for everything.

So we also need additional revenue. And the only way I know to get it is to increase taxes.

I know the Tea Partiers insist Americans won't stand for that. But I believe most Americans would -- *if* they knew everyone, at every income level, was shouldering the burden proportionately and that every penny collected was being spent responsibly. If that were the case, the overall impact of a tax increase on everyone could be minimized, but the cumulative effect would be monumental.

If we can eliminate the frivolous and re-establish the genuine worth of what our government really *should* be doing for its citizens, I'd be more than happy to pay my increased share of the bill, and I don't think I'm alone.

But am I? Are *you* at all open to the possibility of any tax increases to save our economy? Call and let us know.

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

Shame on Our Leaders (8/9/11)

Shame is a natural human emotion.

When we do something we shouldn't – or fail to do something we should – it's almost automatic to feel bad about ourselves. And when our bad behavior becomes public, the remorse usually gets a lot worse.

So how do we explain our U.S. leaders who have taken their mandate to lead and cynically twisted it into their own personal mission of political gain?

Do they feel at all guilty about accepting paychecks for a job they've not just failed to do, but refused to do? Are they embarrassed when they congratulate themselves for some imaginary accomplishment, while their incompetence drags us even further onto financial thin ice? Do they think they bear any responsibility for the real pain caused to millions by their selfish refusal to negotiate or compromise?

Sadly, it appears the answer to all these questions is no. The petty game of politics has eliminated the concept of statesmanship, and left us with nothing but a bunch of shrill dogmatists who substitute noise for reason and empty platitudes for public service, and hope no one's bright enough to notice.

So it's important that we *do* notice. Because only we can force the people steering the ship to do the job they were hired to do.

Call and weigh in with your thoughts.

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

Civility at Fancy Farm (8/16/11)

While the Fancy Farm picnic has been a Kentucky political tradition for over a century, I've always been a bit put off by its reputation as a forum for negative, mudslinging speeches that are intended more to inflame than to inform.

Maybe that's why I appreciated Governor Steve Beshear's Fancy Farm speech this year, in which he ditched the usual nasty cracks about his opponents and instead used his time to talk about his recent trip to visit U.S. troops in the Middle East and to recognize their sacrifices.

While everyone who was there supports our troops, many have criticized the Governor for refusing to mix it up with the type of verbal cockfighting that's more typical of the event. They were disappointed that he didn't deliver the usual rhetorical bloodletting everyone comes to see.

Now, I certainly don't criticize David Williams or Gatewood Galbraith for sticking more to the script and dishing up the traditional barbs and insults. That's expected behavior at Fancy Farm, and no one should be scandalized by it. But I also believe Governor Beshear's decision to tone down the rhetoric was a smart one, and that it enhanced his image as the kind of statesman with the temperament to lead.

But maybe that's just my natural bias against negative campaigning. How do *you* feel about the Governor's Fancy Farm performance?

Call and let us know.

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

Darts and Laurels (8/25/11)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

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Politics is More Than a Game (9/1/11)

Ideas used to count for something in our electoral process. But now, candidates gain office far too often based solely upon their ability to sling mud effectively, craft polished media images, dodge debates or avoid answering tough questions.

Here in Kentucky, where we rank near the bottom in critical categories like education and quality of health, we can't afford that approach any longer. I don't care who's best at "playing the system." I want to know who's most *capable*.

With another governor's race in full swing, here are the questions I have for each candidate:

- What's YOUR plan to drastically improve education in Kentucky?
- What's YOUR plan to help erase our reputation as one of the nation's unhealthiest states?
- And what's YOUR plan to generate the new revenue we'll need to accomplish these goals?

In short, what will YOU do to make us all as happy about your win four years from now as we are on election night?

Just give me straight, sensible answers to those questions, and you'll have my vote, regardless of your party, or how clever your commercials are.

Anyone should be electable if he or she can present a solid case to the voting public. But as long as we continue to allow ourselves to be distracted by trivia, we will never get candidates as enthused about *doing* the job as they are in just winning it.

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

Kentucky Kingdom Needs Political Leadership (9/6/11)

We heard last week that the Al J. Schneider Company has stepped up to guarantee 23 million dollars in loans to Kentucky Kingdom to help it open next spring. That's a big step toward that goal, but there are many more things that must happen before the park comes alive again.

What's keeping this project from moving to completion seems to be a lack of political will on the part of our local and state leaders. Governor Beshear has kept his distance and this has not been a priority for Mayor Greg Fischer, even though the park would employ a thousand young people and provide 60 full time jobs paying about \$50,000 each per year. If either one of them wanted this thing done it would get done.

Those in local and state government are treating Kentucky Kingdom as though it is a private venture, but the state owns the land, the state owns the rides, and the state is ultimately responsible for either opening it up again and generating millions of tax dollars or *paying* millions to bulldoze it into the ground.

This is not the time for timid politicians. We need a courageous leader. Someone who will step up and lead this project until the gates open next summer, just like we elected them to do.

What do you think about the Kentucky Kingdom situation? Call and let us know.

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

America's Future – No Guarantees (9/15/11)

In terms of culture, natural resources and vast potential for personal achievement, no other nation really comes close to America. Still, I'm very worried about our nation.

When you compare most of us today to the Greatest Generation, we don't fare too well.

For example, it's wonderful that the government can help some of us through hard times. But it isn't good that so many have come to depend on government handouts as a sole source of income.

We're fortunate that in times of high unemployment, the government can help with unemployment checks. But it's not good that many people didn't get serious about finding a job until they'd milked those payments dry.

And it's fantastic that the government can help a young mother with assistance until she can get back on her feet. But it isn't right that so many continue to have children they can't support because they assume the government will *always* come to the rescue.

These are issues of character, or the lack of it. And if we don't *rediscover* our character and get everyone back to giving their best instead of asking for the most, our future is frightful.

If history tells us anything, it's that ANY great nation can ultimately fail. And as long as integrity and personal responsibility keep taking a back seat to laziness and greed, I promise you, it can happen to the United States.

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

EDUCATION

School Board Needs a Shake-Up (7/19/11)

Kentucky Senate President David Williams wants to do away with the Jefferson County School Board and place the entire operation under the control of Louisville's mayor, who would be responsible for appointing a superintendent.

While we differ on some of the details, I agree with his basic reasoning because our current board structure has been dysfunctional for a long time. I'm sure the members are nice people, but they possess no unique qualifications that make them education experts - and it shows in their decisions.

Some people insist being directly elected by the voters makes board members responsive to constituents. But in reality, so few voters take the time to learn about so-called "minor candidates" that we tend to just automatically reward incumbency or choose whoever can afford the most yard signs - which is almost always the candidate supported by the teachers union.

On the other hand, the choosing of a superintendent would be one of the most important duties of any mayor. And you can bet he'd get all the expert advice possible to make sure his list of candidates represented only the best of the best, because his own job could well depend upon it.

Making the community's top elected official responsible for one of the community's most important institutions has worked in cities like New York and Chicago. Maybe it's time to try it here.

Call and let us know what you think.

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

Darts and Laurels (8/4/11)

Darts and Laurels time again.

First, a Dart goes to the Indiana Department of Education for its decision to no longer require public schools to teach cursive writing to their students. Instead, they want teachers to concentrate on making them more proficient in keyboarding.

Now, I understand why learning to use a keyboard is much more important now than it used to be. But does that really make it necessary to sacrifice the few minutes a week schools were previously devoting to developing handwriting skills?

Despite what some believe, there's still a valid place in both business and social life for well-executed cursive writing. This elimination of penmanship instruction is just another step in the ongoing erosion of our culture, and for that, Indiana's Department of Education earns an "F."

But a big Laurel goes to the Norton Cancer Institute in recognition of the opening of its new downtown services center at Floyd and Broadway last week. This 65,000 square foot, 26-million dollar facility not only offers both in-patient and outpatient services and houses many of the Institute's research facilities, but it also features many eye-pleasing elements that make it *architecturally* significant as well as medically.

Considering that Kentucky ranks second nationally in overall cancer incidence rates, we all have a stake in the fight against this disease. And Norton should be congratulated for making such a major investment in the cause.

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

School Tax is No Big Deal (8/23/11)

I know we can't solve all our fiscal problems with higher taxes. But I do understand that reasonable tax increases can be appropriate in certain situations. And the proposed increase in Jefferson County's property tax rate to support our public school system is a good example.

Rather than creating a heavy burden on all taxpayers, this increase would cost us just one extra dollar per \$100,000 worth of assessed property per year. So a county resident who owns a home worth two hundred thousand dollars would have to fork over the grand sum of two bucks more.

Somehow, I don't think this is going to break anyone's bank. And it's important to note that this won't result in the school system getting *more* money to work with, but will only make up the amount that would have been *lost* because of decreasing property assessments. In essence, it's merely a move to maintain the school system's *current* level of funding – not increase it.

I understand there will always be those who resent *any* of their money going to a school system they believe is inefficient and wasteful, and I share many of their concerns. But I also value the service our public education system provides. And I'd rather focus on keeping it healthy and correcting the problems rather than starving it to death – especially when the cost is so small.

Call, and let us know what you think.

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

Stealing By Any Other Name is Still Stealing (8/30/11)

People generally disapprove of stealing. We don't tend to make heroes of burglars, welfare cheats or con men.

Which is why I'm confused about much of the reaction to the case of the Jefferson County man accused of lying about his residence so he could enroll his son in the Oldham County School System.

On many message boards – including our own – many have defended him, claiming he was right to do whatever he could to avoid what they consider to be the “substandard” Jefferson County Public Schools. But I think these people are missing the point.

Let's be clear – no one's guilt has been decided yet. And I know there's dissatisfaction over many problems facing Jefferson County's school system. But condoning stealing from another school system is not an acceptable response.

And stealing is what this man has been doing for eight years if he's taken advantage of the limited resources of a county to which he's paid no taxes.

I'd be willing to bet most of the folks defending this guy would be the first to claim we should get a lot tougher on illegal immigrants who are stealing government services. But what, exactly, is the difference?

We don't accept the excuses of bank robbers that they were only trying to provide better for their kids, and I don't think that argument should work here either.

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Beware The French Poodle Generation (7/5/11)

It is said that the fastest way to make an enemy is to do someone a favor. This is the position University Hospital may be in after being forced to cut back on some types of free or sharply discounted care to out-of-towners. University Hospital's original mission was to provide a safety net for the uninsured primarily in Jefferson County. But as more and more people from outside the county kept coming to University Hospital for free medical care, its cost for treating them spiraled to nearly \$28 million last year. And now the indigent population is mad.

People who can't pay their own way have come to feel entitled to this "free" service. But it's not free. Someone always has to pay for it.

Our country was built by strong people. The people who won World War Two are called the Greatest Generation. They were tough and resilient, but today we've created what I call the French Poodle generation. They are an entire class of people who simply couldn't survive without the help of government.

I'm all for treating our own people with compassion and for giving people a hand up, but we had better get this generation to depend less on the government and more on themselves or the French Poodles are going to take all of us down with them.

What are your thoughts? Call and let us know.

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

Darts and Laurels (7/7/11)

Time for some more Darts and Laurels.

My first Dart is aimed at Kentucky's law against texting while driving – not because it goes too far but because it doesn't go far enough. Since January 1st, only 144 people have been cited under the law, even though we all know the streets are crammed with people who are paying more attention to their keyboards than the road ahead.

The police say it's hard to catch people in the act. But that wouldn't be a problem if the law also prohibited ANY use of cell phones by drivers without a hands-free device – and it should. Trying to handle a cell phone and drive at the same time is a recipe for disaster, and it's time to put a stop to it.

Meanwhile, another Dart goes to the law that allows former State Representative Steve Nunn to continue drawing his state pension – of over \$20,000 a year -- even after pleading guilty to intentional murder.

I say, starting now, when you kill someone or steal from people and get sentenced to prison, you should also forfeit your right to your state pension. If your conviction is later overturned -- based on DNA evidence, for example -- we can talk about reinstating it. But couldn't we just use a little common sense and agree we're not going to pay you a pension at taxpayer expense while you sit in prison?

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

Why Bargain Away a Public Asset? (7/26/11)

There's been a lot of controversy over the planned merger of University Hospital with Catholic Health Initiatives. And most of it has involved the fear that Catholic doctrine will determine many medical decisions at publicly-funded University in the future.

I think that's a valid concern that certainly needs more scrutiny. But I'm also disturbed by another aspect of the deal that I think is even more basic:

Specifically, that under the deal, *publicly*-funded University Hospital's new primary owner will be a *private* non-profit organization – one that's not even located in Kentucky!

Does that make sense to anyone?

This is *Louisville's* public hospital – built with tax money and heavily subsidized by tens of millions of dollars from the city and state annually. Can residents expect to share in the proceeds from this transfer through hefty tax rebates? Who gave U of L the right to bargain away such a major public asset without any community input or government oversight? And what, exactly, are the benefits local residents can expect to realize from this transaction that wouldn't otherwise be possible?

I'm uneasy about the clandestine manner in which this deal appears to have gone down. And I think Louisvillians have every right to ask what's really in it for us.

Call and let us know what you think.

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

Darts and Laurels (8/4/11)

Darts and Laurels time again.

First, a Dart goes to the Indiana Department of Education for its decision to no longer require public schools to teach cursive writing to their students. Instead, they want teachers to concentrate on making them more proficient in keyboarding.

Now, I understand why learning to use a keyboard is much more important now than it used to be. But does that really make it necessary to sacrifice the few minutes a week schools were previously devoting to developing handwriting skills?

Despite what some believe, there's still a valid place in both business and social life for well-executed cursive writing. This elimination of penmanship instruction is just another step in the ongoing erosion of our culture, and for that, Indiana's Department of Education earns an "F."

But a big Laurel goes to the Norton Cancer Institute in recognition of the opening of its new downtown services center at Floyd and Broadway last week. This 65,000 square foot, 26-million dollar facility not only offers both in-patient and outpatient services and houses many of the Institute's research facilities, but it also features many eye-pleasing elements that make it *architecturally* significant as well as medically.

Considering that Kentucky ranks second nationally in overall cancer incidence rates, we all have a stake in the fight against this disease. And Norton should be congratulated for making such a major investment in the cause.

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

Heroism in the Face of Disaster (8/18/11)

In the wake of last weekend's tragic stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair, it's only natural to focus on those who lost their lives. The loss to their families is unimaginable and they deserve as much support as we can offer.

But as Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels noted, this was not just a tale of tragedy but one of heroism. He drove that point home when he said the most lasting memory he'll have from the event is the bravery of hundreds of average citizens who rushed *toward* the scene of the collapse – not away -- to help in any way they could. "There was a hero every ten feet," he said.

And while far less devastating in terms of human suffering, the recent windstorm here in Louisville offered similar examples of admirable behavior in its aftermath. Just minutes after the last gust, people in affected neighborhoods everywhere were out in force, helping clear streets and driveways, while others directed traffic around downed power lines for hours until the authorities could take over.

Too often, the news is about people who lack character and act wrongly. But rather than focusing on troublemakers, *these* stories are about people who – given the opportunity -- prefer to fix things and make things right.

By their actions, they define all that's good about human beings. And they deserve to be celebrated.

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

Animal Shelter Cover-Up (9/13/11)

Recently, a Jeffersonville resident visited the kennel area of the city's animal shelter and took numerous photos documenting serious abuse, including urine-soaked floors and animals lying in their own feces. After she presented these photos to Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan, he later visited the shelter and determined that the conditions had been corrected since the photos were taken.

I suppose we should be thankful for the quick clean-up, even though the timing was more than a little suspect. But what is the shelter's new policy to address this problem in the future?

From now on, only staff members will be allowed back in the kennel area.

That's it? No pledge to never fail so miserably again? No discipline for the people responsible for the documented neglect?

This is the way the Soviet Union used to operate. A story is reported that casts the authorities in a bad light? Why, just make sure the story can no longer be reported so no one can see what you're doing anymore.

Problem solved.

Look, humans are the only advocates these animals have. They deserve much better than this shoddy treatment. And the only way that can be assured is by allowing anyone – at any time – to see for themselves that they're being properly treated. Not by placing the entire process behind a curtain of secrecy.

But what do you think? Call and tell us.

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

Guest Editorial – Jeffersonville Animal Shelter (9/23/11)

In my first term as Mayor, a new animal shelter was built to provide better conditions and better care for all neglected animals in Clark County. Proper care for these animals is important, and under my administration animals brought to the shelter have had clean quarters, good food, clean water and sufficient health care. This is extremely important, and I am committed to providing responsible care for these neglected animals.

On a recent Monday morning, pictures were taken before the daily cleaning had taken place showing some unacceptable conditions. Those conditions were immediately corrected. Since that time, I personally have visited the shelter with an animal care professional to recommend improvements to our shelter. Our policies and procedures were graded well, but operations can always improve, so we are in the process of implementing changes to improve care to the highest degree possible.

My administration has always been open and we intend to keep that openness, so I invite WDRB-TV and any other TV station to bring their cameras unannounced to take pictures any time the shelter is open. Our shelter has an outstanding record of healthy pet adoptions and we invite anyone wanting to adopt a pet to see some friendly pups, kittens, dogs, cats, or other animals looking for a home and tour the shelter with one of our staff members.

I'm Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan, and that's my...Point of View.