

The following editorials were broadcast during fourth quarter 2011, addressing the LOCAL 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.

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ECONOMY – JOBS AND **DEVELOPMENT**

Orchestra's First Obligation Is To Survive (10/6/11)

I am on the board of directors of the Louisville Orchestra. So, I have been one of the individuals working to help create a sustainable business model for the Orchestra. And that means significant changes. At times the process has been contentious, but it's not personal. We have great respect for the musicians. This is about business.

For the board, made up entirely of volunteers who give their time, talent and money for the love of orchestral music, this is about creating a business model that Louisville is willing to support financially.

I want to make one very important point. There are those who believe that the Orchestra's *first* and most important obligation is to provide orchestral music to the community. It's not. There is one priority that comes even before this one: *survival*, so that it can *deliver* the service it was created to provide. Without a sustainable business, there is no place for the musicians to gather to play, nobody to sell tickets and no events for people to attend. This board is committed to a sustainable solution, not a temporary solution.

It appears that for the first time compromise is in the air, and that's good. All any of us want is a healthy business model so the musicians can create magical evenings again. We have to accept what we can afford and then act accordingly.

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

Guest Editorial – Local Access Bridges (10/10/11)

The Sherman Minton Bridge closure demonstrates why cross-river connections must be built sooner than later. As the federal process continues to build new interstate bridges, metro leadership should be innovative in getting our community moving forward again.

“Local Access Bridges” are a viable alternative that can be built now, within five years, for about \$100 million each.

Local-access bridges encourage commuters to use the existing streets, which promotes urban revitalization, reduces congestion, and lessens air pollution. These bridges can include bus, bike, and pedestrian lanes.

Local access bridges could be built in southwest Jefferson County, connecting Riverport or Rubbertown to Indiana highway 111; between Portland and New Albany; and upriver near Frankfort or Zorn Avenues, or further upstream.

And, what if another existing bridge is damaged by a barge accident or a seismic event? We cannot delay any longer, and a local access bridge is inexpensive insurance against an unthinkable disruption

How do we fund these bridges? Louisville currently sends about two billion in revenue to the state, but receives back only one billion in state services. If local legislators could reclaim just 5% of this non-returned revenue, that would provide \$50 million for half a bridge with Indiana paying the other half.

Our region is based on the logistics industry. We must have a superior transportation network to be competitive. Louisville needs both new interstate and local access bridges, sooner than later.

If we are truly a ‘Possibility City’, then let’s do what is possible – NOW!

I’m Steve Wiser, and that’s my...Point of View

Gloom and Doom Serves No One (10/18/11)

Much of the East Coast media still insists upon referring to our current economic era as "The Great Recession," claiming these are worst times since the *Great Depression*.

But while our current 9.1% unemployment level is high, it was about 11% in the early '80s, with high inflation also wreaking havoc. Also, keep in mind that even during what we consider full employment, the unemployment level almost never dips below 4%.

So actually, about five percent of people who really want a job are unable to find one.

That *is* a lot of people who probably *are* going through their toughest times ever. But it also means almost 91% of us ARE employed. And in Louisville we're especially fortunate that ours wasn't a boom or bust housing market with an epidemic of foreclosures. Plus, in the local region thousands of job additions *have* been announced in recent months by major employers like Ford, GE and Honda.

Yes, many people are still hurting. And we should do everything in our power to get them working again.

But the disastrous picture being painted by some is grossly exaggerated. And it's important that we not listen only to the Chicken Littles, but also try to keep track of all the good things that the East Coast media aren't talking about.

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

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

Darts and Laurels (10/20/11)

Time for more Darts and Laurels.

My first Laurel goes to the UAW for voting to ratify a new four-year contract with Ford, a move that will keep over 40,000 employees – 5,000 here in Louisville – off the picket line and on the assembly line. While the workers won't receive any raises, they *will* all receive a \$6000 signing bonus instead. And that, spread over the life of the contract, still equals a 3% raise for a worker earning \$50,000 annually.

But a Dart goes to the "Occupy St. Louis" group that invited fans to watch the opening game of the World Series for free on a big screen where all commercials would be blacked out. Their stated goal was to "show the world that there isn't a need for corporate sponsors to enjoy baseball."

But who do they think made that telecast possible in the first place? There definitely *is* a need for corporate sponsors to enjoy baseball – at least if you want to watch it for free on TV -- and hijacking the broadcast those corporations paid for to make an *anti*-corporation case is the height of hypocrisy.

And finally a Laurel goes to the city of Louisville for finally beginning work to reopen the stretch of Seventh Street between Main and Washington that was previously closed for Museum Plaza construction. And anyone who drives downtown very much doesn't need me to explain why.

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

The Economic Pain is Real (10/25/11)

Judging from the response, many of you were troubled by last week's Point of View on the economy, thinking I was trivializing the pain that many who are currently unemployed or underemployed are experiencing.

But that wasn't my intention. While it's true, as one viewer pointed out, that I haven't missed any paychecks during the downturn, that doesn't mean I don't realize how lucky I am. Or that I don't understand how difficult it is for those who *are* out of work.

I never said we should ignore these problems. What I did say – and still believe – is that we do ourselves no favors by focusing solely on every negative piece of news without giving any attention to the *positive* developments that make it more likely we can *reverse* the current downtrend.

A society's economic health depends upon the confidence its citizens have in it. If all we do is fixate on how terrible everything is for a portion of the population without ever discussing what's improving in the bigger picture, we cripple our chances of re-establishing the confidence that will ultimately make things better for everyone.

I think renewed investment in our economy is what's most likely to improve everyone's fortunes in the long term. And that won't happen, or at least it will take much longer, if everyone keeps hammering home a message of pessimism instead of optimism.

Does that make sense? Call and tell us.

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

Understanding the Occupy Whatever Movement (11/22/11)

I'll tell you something I'd really like to get behind: It's that Occupy Wall Street, Portland Oakland, and other places movement. I'm one of the 99%, so count me in.

Of course, first someone will have to explain it to me since they have never really made it clear what the goals are and what the end game is. But as soon as they can articulate a tangible plan and anticipated outcome from this, I'm in.

That sleeping in tents stuff looks fun too. I'd do it too except I have a house, so....

Those Porta-Johns look pretty inviting. That was a *great* idea. Me? Well, I've got a bathroom right inside my house that I mentioned earlier so I'll probably just use that. But if I ever come to your sleepover in the park, I'll be right there in line with you.

But let me be clear! As soon as I know why we're doing this I'll be there with you all day doing nothing and waiting for something to happen. Well, not *all* day. In fact, days are bad for me because I have a full-time job that kind of pays for the house and the indoor plumbing.

So good luck to you, Occupy Whatever. It looks fun, but I guess I'm just not a joiner.

I'm Bill Lamb...and I'm going home.

Darts and Laurels (12/15/11)

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

My first Laurel goes to Joe Reagan, who, since 2005, has had a major positive impact on the Kentuckiana business community as President and CEO of Greater Louisville Inc.. Joe recently announced his departure for a similar position in St. Louis, and I wish him well. But his will be tough shoes to fill, and I hope whoever replaces him can maintain his high standards.

But a Dart goes to TIME Magazine for their puzzling choice of “The Protestor” as their Person of the Year. Really? This was the best they could do? If they had someone in particular in mind, why didn’t they identify him or her? Or do they really value all protest on the same level? If you’ve griped about the cost of milk or gas or asked your neighbor to turn the music down in the past year, do you qualify?

If so, congratulations to all of us – I guess.

Finally, a Laurel goes to the Horseshoe Foundation for their offer of a million-dollar bonus to the company repairing the Sherman Minton Bridge if they complete the job by January 27th. It’s hardly a selfless act, since the Horseshoe casino is losing boatloads of money every day the bridge remains closed. But it’s still refreshing to see one of the affected parties pitching in on the effort instead of just sitting around and griping.

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

POLITICS

Guest Editorial – Metro Council Redistricting (10/21/11)

Hello. I'm Eddie Davis, a representative of Concerned Citizens for District 1, and we are especially concerned about the effects on the district by the proposed Metro Council redistricting plan.

First of all, the percentage of the district's population that is black would radically decrease, from 71% to 58%. No other district suffers such a decrease.

Second, the percentage of West Louisville precincts in the district would go from almost 75% to less than 45%.

Third, the geography of the district would be radically, fundamentally shifted to the Southwest, all the way to Riverport, with at least five northeastern former precincts going to other districts.

And fourth, some of the most identifiable District 1 landmarks, including the Nia Center, the 28th/Broadway Kroger, and Chickasaw Park, would be taken away.

Our concern is made all the more acute by the fact that these radical, fundamental changes are unnecessary. The much-talked-about citywide population increase of 47,000 and eastward population shift simply did not affect District 1. Its population shrank between censuses by only about 1.4%.

The upshot is that District 1 is being unnecessarily gerrymandered from being the "blackest" district to ranking only fourth of the six majority-minority districts.

Redistricting doesn't have to be completed until December 31. Let's slow down and get it right. We need more public input and discussion.

I'm Eddie Davis, a concerned citizen for District 1, and that's my...Point of View.

Merry Christmas to All (12/22/11)

With Christmas only a few days away, now's a good time to look back at the past year and see just how much real change we've managed to bring about here with Point of View.

Take our state legislature, for example. I pointed out many times how frustrated Kentuckians are with its childish, obstructionist tactics, and you can see how much that situation has improved.

And how about drivers using cell phones? Once I took them to task for their dangerous behavior, you saw how quick they were to clean up their act.

Kentucky Kingdom? Back in September, I made it clear we'd be fools to let that asset slip away again. It's good to know we didn't make that mistake.

And, of course, I'm sure all the major progress we're finally making on new Ohio River bridges is largely due to my strong position on the issue.

I guess what I'm saying is, this is a good time of year for all of us to take a good look at ourselves and realize that – as the Rolling Stones once said – you can't always get what you want.

It's a flawed world. And we're flawed human beings. But if we can all just give ourselves *one* gift this Christmas -- the gift of a little humility, tempered with a sense of humor -- maybe things will look better in 2012.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Is Justice Being Crowded Out? (10/11/11)

Kentucky's House Bill 463 – which was signed into law last spring – will save the state an estimated 42 million dollars a year by reducing jail and prison overcrowding. Of course, it won't accomplish that by building more prisons, but by releasing more prisoners. And that puts judges in a tough spot.

The major thrust of the bill is to lower the number of non-violent drug offenders behind bars by reducing the penalties for relatively minor offenses, and by diverting more violators into treatment plans or probation instead of just locking them up.

That seems fairly reasonable. But judges are also now required to follow a point system to determine which other inmates awaiting trial are low- or medium- flight risks, and allow those who qualify to post bond. And in a jurisdiction like Jefferson County, where offense rates are relatively high, this is bound to result in even more offenders *of all kinds* being returned to the streets only hours after being arrested.

I don't like it when the criminal justice system becomes even more of a revolving door. But the money necessary to properly house prisoners just isn't there. I've often complained that the government spends too much money on things government was never intended to do, but housing prisoners is one of the things *only* government can do.

Call and tell us what you think.

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

Farewell to Chief White (11/3/11)

I have mixed emotions about Louisville Police Chief Robert White's departure to take the same post in Denver.

I'm disappointed because he's a genuinely good man and a friend. He's intelligent and personable, and he accomplished what he was hired to do when he came to Louisville, improving discipline in the ranks and the reputation of the force among a majority of citizens.

But it's been clear for some time now he's wanted to be elsewhere. Several times before this he offered himself as a candidate for other openings around the country, and people don't do that when they're happy where they are.

And there's also no doubt Chief White has been the target of much criticism from within the department during his tenure. Many officers have been unhappy with his style, and whether the complaints have been justified or not, that's created a morale problem.

So while I'm personally sorry to see him go, I think his decision to move west presents opportunities for all involved. Chief White gets a fresh start in a place he may like better. Denver gets the benefit of his skills to address serious problems in their police force. And the Louisville Metro Police Department gets the chance to hire a new leader – possibly from within its own ranks – who can create more of a culture of teamwork and mutual respect.

I wish the best of luck to all three.

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

Guest Editorial – Graffiti (11/7/11)

If you are like me, you are totally disgusted with graffiti art which is showing up on public and private property, in downtown Louisville and in the inner city.

Something must be done to curb this vandalism. The parents of under-aged kids doing this activity should be held responsible for what their children are doing. Most of their craft is done in the dark of night when these young offenders should be at home asleep, or at least off the street.

If we, the citizens, and law enforcement do nothing to let these kids know that what they are doing will not be tolerated, it will increase more and more. And most inner-city dwellers know that much of these graffiti displays are connected to gangs that want to make their presence known.

I beg the police department to try and come up with strategies to identify these kids, and at least make them clean up what they've messed up.

I ask citizens to anonymously report kids that you see doing this vandalism to CrimeStoppers. I suggest that businesses install cameras to get these offenders on tape, so they can be identified. And I ask parents, please teach your children to not break the law by marking on other people's property. That's the best way to "nip this thing in the bud."

My name is Rene Hardin and that's my Point of View.

Punish Irresponsible Drivers (11/8/11)

One of the most despicable, selfish acts one can engage in is driving without insurance.

It's not a few people, but *thousands* who think the law requiring all drivers to carry insurance doesn't apply to them. In the past month alone we've had three employees involved in car accidents caused by people who were either uninsured or under insured.

Even though you have to show proof of insurance before you can be issued a drivers license, a lot of people *cancel* that insurance as soon as they have their proof in hand. Then, if they happen to run into you or me, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage or injury, well...that just becomes our problem. Or our insurance company's.

You say everyone can't afford insurance? Tough. If you can't handle the responsibility that comes with driving, find another way to get around.

Here's how I'd fix the problem. First, I'd like to see violators of this law get some severe punishment -- like 30 days behind bars -- and the fine should be to pay for the cost of their incarceration, as well.

Secondly, all insurance should have to be paid in advance, and be non-cancelable.

Driving without insurance is the height of selfishness and irresponsibility, and I make no apology when I say, the price of driving without insurance should be higher than the price of having it.

What are your thoughts? Call and let us know.

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

Keep the Fireworks Ban (12/5/11)

After showing the good sense just a couple of weeks ago to ban the sale and use of large fireworks like cherry bombs, Roman candles and M-80s, Louisville's Metro Council now plans to vote *again* on Thursday to reverse that decision. And I can't think of a worse idea.

Since two Council members were absent when the original ban was passed 11 to 10 -- and they both apparently side with those who opposed the ban -- the losers from last time want a do-over.

But I hope they'll think again. Because you can call them what you want, but the truth is, we're talking about dangerous explosives. And they have no business in the hands of people untrained in their proper use.

I know -- some Council members can't resist the tax revenues that would result from allowing their legal sale. But the trade-off simply isn't worth it. The Council has a duty to promote public safety, and as Madonna Flood, the leading supporter of the ban, has pointed out, "Every fire department, fire chief and fire department board of trustees has begged us not to let this happen."

When it comes to absurdly dangerous products, M-80s and cherry bombs are right up there with the old Saturday Night Live classic, "Bag 'o Glass." And as far as I'm concerned, they have no more right to be legally peddled on our city's store shelves.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE /
RECOGNITION

Give Back – Give a Day (10/13/11)

Recently, I talked about how we could all honor the memory of Owsley Brown by giving back to our community in whatever way we can. And now, Mayor Greg Fischer has come up with a way we can do just that -- by volunteering during the city's first "Give a Day" week of service projects.

During this week – which runs from next Monday through October 24th – the Mayor's office is making it easy for everyone to donate their services to the area's non-profit agencies, churches and other organizations simply by visiting the website www.mygiveaday.com and choosing where they'd like to lend a hand. And if you represent a group that has a project or projects in need of volunteers, you're also invited to visit the same website to get listed.

It's the city's way of playing matchmaker between the community's numerous charitable organizations and the many potential volunteers who have so much to give. And no matter how you help, you'll be rewarded for your efforts with the knowledge that you've helped make Louisville a better place.

Of course, volunteers aren't just needed for one week a year. But if this special campaign succeeds in raising awareness and getting new people excited about how they can contribute, it can have a permanent effect throughout the year.

So visit mygiveaday.com, and see the many ways you can make a difference. It's an effort worth making.

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