

The following editorials were broadcast during first 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**

Quit Picking on the Derby Festival (3/15)  
Quit Picking on the Derby Festival – Phone Response (3/16)  
Darts and Laurels (2/10)  
Guest Editorial – Kentuckians for Progress (3/23)

## **Police, Fire, EMS, Military**

Darts and Laurels (2/10)

## **Politics**

If I Were Running for Governor (1/4)  
If I Were Running for Governor – Phone Response (1/5)  
The Rhetoric of Rhetoric is Misplaced (1/13)  
Taming the Debt (1/18)  
Taming the Debt – Phone Response (1/19)  
Darts and Laurels (1/20)  
President Obama Must Take the Next Step (1/27)  
Statewide Smoking Ban is Long Overdue (2/1)  
Statewide Smoking Ban is Long Overdue – Phone Response (2/2)  
Darts and Laurels (2/10)  
There Shouldn't Be a Law (2/17)  
Running Away is Not a Solution (2/24)  
Guest Editorial – Independent Voting in Primaries (2/25)  
The Stonewalling Judy Green (3/8)  
The Stonewalling Judy Green – Phone Response (3/9)  
Don't Reward Obstructionism (3/15)  
Don't Reward Obstructionism – Phone Response (3/16)

Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt County (3/29)  
Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt County – Phone Response (3/30)

## **Education**

Reconsidering a Hasty Decision (2/8)  
Reconsidering a Hasty Decision – Phone Response (2/9)  
Pointing a Finger at the School Board (2/22)  
Pointing a Finger at the School Board – Phone Response (2/23)  
Let the Dropouts Go (3/1)  
Let the Dropouts Go – Phone Response (3/2)

## **Public Health and Safety**

Darts and Laurels (2/10)  
Statewide Smoking Ban is Long Overdue (2/1)  
Statewide Smoking Ban is Long Overdue – Phone Response (2/2)  
There Shouldn't Be a Law (2/17)  
Steering a Safer Course (3/24)  
Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt County (3/29)  
Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt County – Phone Response (3/30)

## **Crime and the Courts**

Capital Punishment – Swift and Sure (1/11)  
Capital Punishment – Swift and Sure – Phone Response (1/12)  
Darts and Laurels (1/20)  
Turning a Blind Eye to Parking Fines (2/3)  
Fighting Hate Speech Without Censorship (3/3)  
Handicapped Parking – Don't Abuse It (3/17)

# **ECONOMY - JOBS & DEVELOPMENT**

## **Quit Picking on the Derby Festival (2/15/11)**

The Derby Festival's announcement that it would fence off a portion of the Great Lawn for this year's Thunder Over Louisville and require entrants to have a Pegasus Pin has generated howls of protest -- all undeserved.

This decision was made only after police and EMS officials expressed concern over security issues caused in recent years by people arriving early and attempting to stake out far more than their fair share of space.

Of course, there are always rabble-rousers who insist on finding evil motives where none exist. One misguided clergyman has even accused the Festival of trying to enrich itself "on the backs of the poor." But that's nonsense.

The price of a Pegasus Pin is just four dollars. And given the extra costs of providing fencing -- as well as separate security and portable toilets -- any extra pin sales are unlikely to even cover expenses. Besides, what's wrong with asking people to bear some of the costs for this tremendous community event that's produced every year *at no profit*?

The restricted area represents less than 10% of the prime viewing space for Thunder on just one side of the river. This is a sensible solution to a serious problem, and the Derby Festival deserves credit, not scorn.

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

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

## **Darts and Laurels (2/10/11)**

I'm feeling positive today, so let's serve up some Laurels – no Darts.

The first Laurel goes to Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer for finally reaching an agreement with developer Todd Blue allowing the old Iron Quarter buildings to be demolished to make way for two new hotels. I know many preservationists insisted the buildings should be saved in their entirety at all costs. But there's no point in protecting old structures in the guise of historic preservation when their condition has deteriorated past the point of no return.

Mayor Fischer also gets credit for finally resolving the long legal battle between the city and retired Louisville firefighters by agreeing to pay off a 14.2 million dollar settlement. But the real Laurel here goes to Metro Councilman Jim King for coming up with the breakthrough idea of financing most of the deal by borrowing 10 million dollars from the city-owned Water Company. It's innovative thinking like this that makes me glad King is again Metro Council President.

And a final Laurel goes to locally-based Kindred Healthcare for its acquisition of the health services company RehabCare, which will move the company into the top 360 on the Forbes 500 list while bringing 150 high-paying jobs to Louisville. It's a move that's not only good for them, but for the entire community.

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## **Guest Editorial - Kentuckians for Progress (3/25/11)**

We've been talking about bridges for a long time in this community. So long, in fact, that it was 1969 when our regional planning authority said we should build the east end bridge on an accelerated timeline. Well, I don't have to tell you that after 42 years, STILL no more bridges than in 1969 is not accelerated.

Why are we in this situation?

Much of the delay can be attributed to River Fields, a group of environmental extremists who have filed lawsuits to delay, and thus stop, construction.

After more than four decades and countless studies, River Fields wants even more studies and further delays.

This small group of elitists has caused one delay after another - and their latest lawsuit could put the project on hold for years.

Our community can't afford to let a handful of people selfishly stop progress to the detriment of the community.

We must come together to get this project back on track. After 42 years, it's time we finally build this bridge.

Take action today by calling River Fields at 877-857-8074. Tell them to stop holding back progress and tell them to drop the suit.

To learn more about the efforts of Kentuckians for Progress and to get involved, visit [drop the suit dot com](http://dropthesuit.com).

I'm Rebecca Jackson and that's my...Point of View.

**POLICE, FIRE, EMS, MILITARY**

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# POLITICS

## **If I Were Running for Governor (1/4/11)**

I've never run for public office and I don't intend to. But if I did, I'd do it a lot differently than most of the people who do.

Take Kentucky state government. Our state has more financial commitments than revenue to pay for them, and our system is very broken, mostly because of people trying to make it do far more than government was ever intended to do. And we're in this mess because our politicians are more interested in getting elected than in fixing the problem.

They say what voters *want* to hear instead of what they *need* to hear, and we foolishly reward them for their dishonesty.

I think – given a choice – the people just might embrace some hard truth. And if I were running for governor, for example, I'd give it to them.

I'd tell them that if I were elected, government would pay for what we can afford and only that.

I'd promise to get rid of several social programs that cost far too much and seriously exceed the role of government.

I'd be up front and admit I'd have to raise taxes to adequately finance the programs we can't afford to cut.

I'd make it clear that legalizing casino gambling would be my number one priority to *alleviate* that tax burden.

And I'd have no negative comments to make about any opponent, because my approach would be so distinctive, I wouldn't need to mention them.

Would voters be able to accept such a brutally honest assessment of our problems and the sacrifices needed to fix them? I'm really not sure. But I do know we'll never get anywhere until someone is brave enough to offer the option. This state needs fixing, and no regular politician – who'd rather *win* office than *use* it effectively -- has a prayer of doing that.

What do you think of this platform? Could you support it, or is it a little bit *too* honest? Is there anything you'd add to it?

Call and let us know.

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## **The Rhetoric of Rhetoric is Misplaced (1/13/11)**

You may have noticed some commentators, columnists and newspapers claiming that the tragic shootings in Arizona happened because of the nasty rhetoric during the past political season, most of which they seem to attribute to Republicans and right wing talk show hosts. I find that opportunism after this tragedy to be misleading and distasteful.

All evidence so far says this shooter had an infatuation with Representative Gabrielle Giffords since he first met her in 2007. He could have had that same infatuation for an actress, an athlete, or a former girlfriend. For reasons we don't know, he chose to try to end the life of the object of his infatuation and while he was at it he shot 19 other people. Some of them were Democrats, some Republicans and some were neither. He didn't care.

Am I disgusted with all the negativity in politics today? Oh, you bet. And maybe this is a catalyst to force us back to a more civilized dialog. But there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that this evil was stirred to the surface by political rhetoric.

Note to the media: If you think we should return to a time when debate was more elegant and polite than the name calling that passes for campaigning today, fine make your case. But don't use a tragedy like we just had and twist the facts to support an unrelated agenda.

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

## **Taming the Debt REV (1/18/11)**

When you're 14 trillion dollars in debt, the last thing you should do is borrow more. But that's exactly what U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner says the government must be allowed to do. He says – given our current spending patterns -- we'll reach our current 14.3 trillion dollar debt limit no later than May. And that unless Congress allows the debt to go even higher, the nation will go into default.

I understand that going into default would cause more economic pain than most Americans are prepared to endure. But is merely raising the debt limit the prudent response?

While I never like negotiating at gunpoint, I'm afraid the havoc that would be wreaked by a default *is* enough of a real threat to make it necessary to raise the limit. However, any such action should be strictly tied to specific, significant and *immediate* spending cuts – including a requirement for any future expenditures by Congress to be offset by equal *reductions* in government spending.

Let's face it -- we're too far gone to keep from reaching the current debt limit whether we raise it or not. But to get out of any hole, we must first stop digging. And if we hope to make any progress toward fiscal sanity, that concept must be the cornerstone of any debt limit legislation.

What do you think we should do about the debt? Call and let us know.

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## **Darts and Laurels (1/20/11)**

Time for some more Darts and Laurels.

This time, our first Laurel goes to WHAS Radio personality Terry Meiners, who last month celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the job. These days, most local radio talent everywhere is being replaced by national syndicated voices like Rush Limbaugh and his clones. But Terry has managed to not only hang on but to thrive, using his lifelong knowledge of this community to create comedy that's not only entertaining but relevant.

But a Dart goes to the Metro Police Department for merely suspending Detective James Adams for 30 days for his role in a fatal car crash last year. Given that he was off-duty and traveling over 80 miles an hour at the time of the wreck, I'm pretty sure that any civilian in the same situation would be facing criminal charges for such reckless driving – so why wasn't he terminated? The police should be required to follow the same traffic laws as everyone else when they're not in pursuit or emergency mode.

And finally, a Laurel goes to Kentucky Representative Lonnie Napier, who's filed a bill in the state house requiring random drug testing of Kentuckians who receive food stamps, Medicaid or other state assistance. This is a situation in which the public has a definite interest, and I don't think it's unreasonable to demand that people receiving government aid play by the rules.

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

## **President Obama Must Take the Next Step (1/27/11)**

As I was watching President Obama's State of the Union speech, I was encouraged to see Republicans and Democrats sitting together instead of on opposite sides of the aisle. We need more of that.

In his speech, the President said the two parties can and should work together on legislation that would spur the economy, create an environment for good, private sector jobs, and put our nation on a stronger footing for the future. I hope he means it because it is absolutely what must occur.

But President Obama said something else that sounded *almost* right, but not quite. He said he recognizes that spending is out of control, and yet his response was to propose that we lock in spending levels we all know are completely unsustainable for the next five years. Americans don't need a spending freeze at unsustainable levels. We need dramatic *cuts*.

Some of these cuts will be inconvenient for many, others will cause some hardship, but failure to get our spending back to what we can afford will result in devastating hardship for all of us, the likes of which most of us have never seen. The President must – *must* - take the next step of *cutting* our spending levels until we have returned to a place where we can afford what we *are* spending.

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

## **Statewide Smoking Ban is Long Overdue (2/1/11)**

Regular viewers of Point of View know I've disagreed with many of the positions taken by Kentucky State Senator David Williams over the years. But his proposal for a statewide smoking ban in all indoor workplaces – including restaurants and bars -- has my enthusiastic support.

As I've said before, such a law no longer even qualifies as an attempt at changing social behavior. For the most part, the behavior has *already* changed to the point where an overwhelming majority of people refuse to tolerate the annoyance and health risks posed by second hand smoke. This merely recognizes that fact.

Of course, opponents will claim an anti-smoking law violates property rights. But the issue here isn't property rights – it's workplace safety. And I'm sorry to be so blunt, but those who stubbornly insist that the health hazards created by second hand smoke are overstated and unproven are simply wrong.

And as for those predictions of economic disaster for the state's restaurants and bars if smoking is outlawed -- well, it didn't happen in Louisville. Or in Lexington. Or in any of the 25 other communities in the Commonwealth that have adopted such a ban.

The best way for Kentucky to shed its image as one of the nation's unhealthiest states would be to cultivate a new one by wisely doing something about it. This law would be a good start.

Call, and tell us what you think.

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## **There SHOULDN'T Be A Law (2/17/11)**

A big problem with lawmakers is they take their title too seriously. Since we've elected them to make laws, they're determined to make as many as they can whether they're necessary or not.

For example, to halt the illegal production of meth, Kentucky legislators want to require a *prescription* to buy what are now *over-the-counter* allergy medications that contain a necessary meth ingredient.

This ill-advised move would cost countless law-abiding citizens millions of dollars -- all in a vain attempt to save a relative minority of idiots from the consequences of their own bad choices.

Then there's the proposal to allow registered independents to vote in Democratic and Republican Party primaries. Why is this a good idea? Do the Wildcats get to have a say in the Cardinals' starting lineup?

If independents want the advantages of party membership, they should choose one and join.

And what about our latest local "adult entertainment" ordinance? I understand these kinds of clubs aren't for everyone, but really -- when was the last time anyone was forced to enter one? What kind of danger do they pose?

I predict this law will eventually be overturned just like all its predecessors -- but only after we've wasted another fortune in legal fees.

It's easy to say "There oughta be a law." But sometimes it's much wiser to realize we *don't* need one.

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

## **Running Away is Not a Solution (2/24/11)**

There's an old saying – “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”

Now, there seems to be an updated variation that says, “When the going gets tough, the Wisconsin and Indiana Democrats get going to Illinois to hide.”

I get it that they don't like the direction the Republicans are going. In both states, they're trying to make some tough decisions about the future of pensions and unions and budgets. Nobody likes to cut these things back, but running away from the battle is a spineless reaction.

I know if I opposed the Republican agenda on these issues and any of these Democratic cowards were *my* representative, I'd be outraged that they wouldn't go on record on my behalf. Sure, they're outnumbered and will probably lose if they do come back to vote. But at least their constituents would have a voice. And if – as they seem to believe – the Republican position is truly bad for the people, then the people will make sure the Democrats are properly rewarded for standing firm next Election Day.

Legislators are sworn to represent the best interests of their constituents in the ongoing process of democracy – not to take their ball and go home if victory for their side isn't guaranteed. Throwing a tantrum that brings the entire process to a halt is the stuff of playgrounds – not government – and the people of Indiana and Wisconsin deserve better.

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

Recently Bill Lamb made a comment about SB 41 allowing Independents to vote in Kentucky's Primary. He made a statement "Do the Wildcats get to have a say in the Cardinals line-up"? Primaries are not the political equivalent of a college basketball roster. The Wildcats and the Cardinals don't set the rules of the game they play by ... why should the Democrat and Republican Party's set the rules for how elections are conducted? The people should determine that. They are the tax-payer funded crucial first-round elections in which the conversation is shaped, the issues are defined, and the voters begin to make themselves heard. All too often, because of rampant partisan gerrymandering, general elections are an afterthought, which makes the primaries all the more important.

Any system that systematically excludes such a large - and expanding - portion of the electorate is outdated and needs to be changed. We're not going to be able to innovate in Kentucky if our political system is stuck in the "I like Ike" era. The fastest growing segments of voters are independents, and they want to be heard and they want to fully participate.

Excluding independents from crucial first round elections means that the only voices being heard in the crucial beginning stages of elections--where the issues are defined--are the partisans. That is bad for Kentucky, bad for America, and bad for democracy.

## **The Stonewalling Judy Green (3/8/11)**

In an American court, you're innocent until proven guilty.

But in the court of public opinion, the *appearance* of guilt can sometimes be too strong to ignore. And the case of Metro Councilwoman Judy Green is a perfect example.

The list of Ms. Green's alleged misdeeds already included mismanaging a grant intended for a youth work program she administered and hiring family members who financially benefited from it.

But now come allegations of taking a bribe, *and* securing a credit card in the name of an aide without her permission.

In an interview with Fox 41's Stephan Johnson last week, Ms. Green denied any wrongdoing. But she offered no conclusive proof – or any plausible explanation for why so *many* accusations would be fired at her from so many different sources.

It's important to note that Ms. Green has not been convicted of -- or charged with -- any crime. But next week, the Metro Ethics Commission will hold a hearing on the issues surrounding the summer work program, and an adverse finding could lead to her removal from office.

In such a responsible position, the *look* of impropriety can be almost as damning as the real thing. And unless Ms. Green convincingly refutes all the charges leveled against her, her continued effectiveness as a Council member would seem to be in serious doubt.

Call and tell us what you think.

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

## **Don't Reward Obstructionism (3/15/11)**

It's an old story:

Kentucky legislature convenes to consider serious issue. Petty politics and huge egos block any real communication or compromise. Legislature adjourns with no resolution. Governor calls special session to force decision. And, of course, we foot the bill.

This time, because Kentucky's state senators and representatives have again refused to do the job they were elected to do, we find ourselves in the ironic position of *wasting* an additional \$60,000 a day to figure out how to address serious financial shortfalls in our Medicaid budget.

This is nuts.

Back on Election Day, every current member of the House and Senate was *begging* for the chance to work for the good of the Commonwealth. They assured us they understood the problems, knew the solutions and had the guts to get things done.

Funny how quickly all that "can-do" spirit erodes into "no-way" obstructionism right after the first week of November.

While we certainly need to resolve this Medicaid crisis, we don't owe any of our legislative slackers additional compensation for work that should have been done on time in the first place.

If lawmakers had to work without pay during any special session, I'll wager we'd have far fewer of them to worry about in the future.

Call, and let us know what you think.

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

## **Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt (3/29/11)**

By now, most people know I strongly support anti-smoking laws in general and Louisville's in particular. The public health hazards associated with smoking are undeniable, and any law protecting people from second hand smoke deserves support.

However, I feel a bit differently about Bullitt County's recently-passed smoking ban.

Why? Because the Bullitt County ban was *not* put into place by the voters or their representatives, but by decree of the county's Board of Health – a group made up solely of appointees and volunteers. And while a majority of the board members are medical professionals with the good of the community at heart, I don't think people should be subject to laws into which they've had no input whatsoever.

I firmly believe the people of Bullitt County would be better off with a smoking ban in place. But I also think laws should be passed only by legislators or by the people directly.

Bullitt County Attorney Monica Robinson – who opposes the ban -- has stated in court that “we make no arguments on any of the health issues,” claiming her opposition is based solely on legal grounds. Well, if that's truly the case, the lawmakers of Bullitt County can resolve this controversy by *recognizing* those health issues and passing their *own* ban.

That would not only be doing the right thing, but doing it the right way.

Call and let us know your opinion.

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# EDUCATION

## **Reconsidering a Hasty Decision (2/8/11)**

Next Monday, the Jefferson County Board of Education will decide whether to reconsider its vote not to renew the contract of Superintendent Sheldon Berman -- and I hope they will.

The initial determination was made last November in haste and with virtually no community input. And I believe at least some of the five Board members who voted against retaining Dr. Berman did so out of political motivations unrelated to his performance.

His is one of the county's most difficult jobs, dealing with serious problems that have developed over decades. So how can anyone properly judge his performance after just three and a half years? And what kind of replacement candidates are we likely to attract once we've developed a reputation as a school district with an itchy trigger finger that refuses to give a leader the *opportunity* to succeed?

It's time for the Board to reconsider this decision in earnest, this time considering the wishes of the entire community. And if they determine they've made a mistake, to correct it.

Here's a map indicating which board members represent the county's seven districts. And the same map can be found by going to [Fox41.com](http://Fox41.com) and clicking on today's Point of View. Please consult it, and contact your representative before next Monday to let them know how you feel about this issue.

And call *us* too, to let us know your thoughts.

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



## **Pointing a Finger at the School Board (2/22/11)**

Last week, Fox 41 News conducted a website poll asking respondents who they hold most responsible for the lingering problems with the Jefferson County School System. And the results were eye-opening.

Even though Superintendent Sheldon Berman has been made the latest scapegoat for the system's woes, over half the nearly 1400 people who responded blamed the school board itself. Parents took second place in the responsibility sweepstakes with over a quarter of the vote, while Berman was chosen by fewer than 10%.

This tells me the people of Jefferson County are waking up to the fact that it's been a long time since the school board has demonstrated any level of competence, and that board members have been sorely lacking in achieving results anyone could be proud of.

But we weren't awake in November. We missed a great opportunity to elect a competent school board. Going forward it's up to us to take responsibility, to ask the tough questions, to actually study the candidates at election time and choose people based on qualifications rather than who has the most yard signs.

Unless we start rejecting less-than-competent people in favor of people who truly understand and care about education, we grown-ups will squander the future of yet another generation. And that's who this is really all about.

What do you think? What will it take to get a better school board?

Call and let us know.

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## **Let the Dropouts Go (3/1/11)**

Earlier this month, the Kentucky House passed a bill that would raise the state's school dropout age from 16 to 18, and it now awaits action in the Senate.

At first glance, this might seem a good idea. But I hope the Senate defeats it. Because while I agree that our state's low percentage of high school and college graduates is extremely costly, I don't see how this bill would create any real change.

The vast majority of our current dropouts don't just wake up on their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and suddenly decide they'd rather not go to school anymore. At best, they've been unmotivated underachievers with no appreciation for education for many years already. And at worst, their bad attitudes and behaviors have also been disruptive to the majority of kids who *are* there to learn.

If a kid hasn't gotten the message by age 16 that a high school diploma is a worthy goal, it's unlikely two more years of educational incarceration will make him see the light. More likely, he'll just be a dead weight for that much longer, wasting the limited resources of teachers who already have more than enough problems to deal with.

I think we *should* make changes in our system that will make more kids *want* to stick around and get an education. But simply delaying the inevitable helps no one.

Call, and let us know what you think.

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# **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

## **Darts and Laurels (2/10/11)**

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A big problem with lawmakers is they take their title too seriously. Since we've elected them to make laws, they're determined to make as many as they can whether they're necessary or not.

For example, to halt the illegal production of meth, Kentucky legislators want to require a *prescription* to buy what are now *over-the-counter* allergy medications that contain a necessary meth ingredient.

This ill-advised move would cost countless law-abiding citizens millions of dollars -- all in a vain attempt to save a relative minority of idiots from the consequences of their own bad choices.

Then there's the proposal to allow registered independents to vote in Democratic and Republican Party primaries. Why is this a good idea? Do the Wildcats get to have a say in the Cardinals' starting lineup?

If independents want the advantages of party membership, they should choose one and join.

And what about our latest local "adult entertainment" ordinance? I understand these kinds of clubs aren't for everyone, but really -- when was the last time anyone was forced to enter one? What kind of danger do they pose?

I predict this law will eventually be overturned just like all its predecessors -- but only after we've wasted another fortune in legal fees.

It's easy to say "There oughta be a law." But sometimes it's much wiser to realize we *don't* need one.

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

## Steering a Safer Course (03-24-11)

I know this won't sit well with a lot of people, but I have to say it:

Driving demands dexterity, quick reflexes, good vision and attentiveness -- skills that tend to deteriorate with age. And the truth is, while many of our senior citizens are still excellent drivers, a significant number of them no longer are.

So wouldn't it be reasonable to require every driver -- after a certain age -- to pass a road test every few years in order to keep his or her license?

Now I know that there are bad drivers of *all* ages. In a perfect world, we'd re-test *everybody* every few years.

But doing that would be logistically impossible. So *some* age level needs to be determined when such a policy would kick in, and it doesn't seem unreasonable to think re-testing should become mandatory after a driver turns, say, 65 or 70.

When *any* of us get behind the wheel, we're in control of a deadly weapon capable of wreaking tremendous havoc. Most people in their advanced years are no longer the *athletes* they once were. So why should we automatically assume they're still the *drivers* they once were?

And to those who cry "discrimination," I can only remind you that we'd ALL be subject to such re-testing ultimately...assuming we live long enough.

And shouldn't that be the whole point?

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

## **Good Intentions, Bad Law in Bullitt (3/29/11)**

By now, most people know I strongly support anti-smoking laws in general and Louisville's in particular. The public health hazards associated with smoking are undeniable, and any law protecting people from second hand smoke deserves support.

However, I feel a bit differently about Bullitt County's recently-passed smoking ban.

Why? Because the Bullitt County ban was *not* put into place by the voters or their representatives, but by decree of the county's Board of Health – a group made up solely of appointees and volunteers. And while a majority of the board members are medical professionals with the good of the community at heart, I don't think people should be subject to laws into which they've had no input whatsoever.

I firmly believe the people of Bullitt County would be better off with a smoking ban in place. But I also think laws should be passed only by legislators or by the people directly.

Bullitt County Attorney Monica Robinson – who opposes the ban -- has stated in court that “we make no arguments on any of the health issues,” claiming her opposition is based solely on legal grounds. Well, if that's truly the case, the lawmakers of Bullitt County can resolve this controversy by *recognizing* those health issues and passing their *own* ban.

That would not only be doing the right thing, but doing it the right way.

Call and let us know your opinion.

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



# **CRIME / COURTS**

## **Capital Punishment – Swift and Sure (1/11/11)**

With regard to capital punishment, I'm generally in favor of restraint. When a life is at stake, I don't think being sure beyond a *reasonable* doubt is enough. I think executing someone is only justified when guilt of a capital crime has been proven beyond *any* doubt.

Having said that, I can't think of anyone who deserves a swift and sure execution more than the assailant who gunned down Representative Gabrielle Giffords and killed six other people last Saturday.

Some crimes are just so heinous that the perpetrator forfeits any further right to exist. And given the overwhelming number of eyewitnesses – and his own writings – the killer's guilt and premeditation are clear. So why do I have this unsettling feeling we'll still be talking about him in the present tense years from now?

This isn't about punishing the shooter. It's about protecting society by permanently removing him from our midst. And while that could be done through life imprisonment, I don't think society has any obligation to incur the massive expense of housing and feeding him for the next 60 years – nor to invest massive resources into attempting a rehabilitation that has no chance of happening.

In my perfect world, capital punishment would be extremely rare. But this murderer would be tried and convicted this week and executed the next.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

## **Darts and Laurels (1/20/11)**

Time for some more Darts and Laurels.

This time, our first Laurel goes to WHAS Radio personality Terry Meiners, who last month celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the job. These days, most local radio talent everywhere is being replaced by national syndicated voices like Rush Limbaugh and his clones. But Terry has managed to not only hang on but to thrive, using his lifelong knowledge of this community to create comedy that's not only entertaining but relevant.

But a Dart goes to the Metro Police Department for merely suspending Detective James Adams for 30 days for his role in a fatal car crash last year. Given that he was off-duty and traveling over 80 miles an hour at the time of the wreck, I'm pretty sure that any civilian in the same situation would be facing criminal charges for such reckless driving – so why wasn't he terminated? The police should be required to follow the same traffic laws as everyone else when they're not in pursuit or emergency mode.

And finally, a Laurel goes to Kentucky Representative Lonnie Napier, who's filed a bill in the state house requiring random drug testing of Kentuckians who receive food stamps, Medicaid or other state assistance. This is a situation in which the public has a definite interest, and I don't think it's unreasonable to demand that people receiving government aid play by the rules.

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

## **Turning a Blind Eye to Parking Fines (2/3/11)**

Given the current tight budgets facing cities large and small these days, you'd think a town the size of New Albany would have a little urgency about collecting hundreds of thousands of dollars it's owed. But that doesn't seem to be the case when it comes to the massive number of unpaid parking tickets the city is choosing to ignore.

According to a Fox 41 news story earlier this week, the list of unpaid tickets in New Albany is over 100 pages long and totals over \$239,000. Several violators have incurred fines well into the thousands – with the top scofflaw running up a tab over \$32,000. Yet attempts to collect those fines have been virtually non-existent.

What's really troubling is that the top offenders seem to be businesses or professionals who apparently think they should be above the law, while thousands of little guys follow the rules. And sadly, the city attorney – who refuses to bring law enforcement into the matter – apparently agrees with them.

Is New Albany really so financially robust it can treat \$239,000 like spare change?

When our reporter tried to interview city attorney Shane Gibson for more information, she was told his schedule was full. But even though he wouldn't give *her* an explanation, I think the citizens of New Albany should demand one.

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

## **Fighting Hate Speech Without Censorship (3/3/11)**

One of the great things about being Americans is that we enjoy the protections of the U.S. Constitution.

But one of the most *irritating* things is that those we disagree with also enjoy those *same* protections.

That was illustrated this week when the Supreme Court upheld the right of a small, fundamentalist Kansas church to hold inflammatory, anti-gay demonstrations outside military funerals.

I can't begin to understand the group's ridiculous contention that military deaths are God's punishment for America's tolerance of homosexuality. But I do know there can't be many things more hurtful than seeing picket signs reading "Thank God for Dead Soldiers" while burying your soldier son or daughter.

Every instinct tells me such behavior shouldn't be allowed. But as hard as it is to say, I think the Court got it right.

It's not the government's place to suppress speech – even misguided, hateful speech. And while most would probably be willing to make an exception in *this* case, opening that door would only be asking for big trouble down the road.

Censoring these repugnant protesters would only make them martyrs. Reasonable people will instead fight back by denying them the exaggerated attention they crave, and use our combined voices of reason and compassion to drown out the pitiful tantrums of what is, after all, just a tiny cult of malcontents.

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

## **Handicapped Parking (3/17/11)**

When I was growing up, no such thing as a handicapped parking space existed. Then, laws were passed requiring a certain number of spaces in all lots to be larger than normal, closer to the entrance and specifically reserved for the handicapped.

It was a great idea that epitomized the American ideals of inclusion and tearing down needless barriers to equality.

Which is why it burns me so much to see handicapped parking passes being so brazenly abused.

Now I know many people – like heart patients -- possess handicaps that aren't readily visible. But hang out in any supermarket lot for more than five minutes, and I virtually guarantee you'll see some hard-bodied person pulling into one of these spaces, bouncing out of the car and jogging into the store to pick up a six-pack.

And when confronted, they'll swear up and down they're doing nothing wrong because there's a handicapped parking pass hanging from the mirror. Of course, it may actually belong to Mom or Dad, but hey – they're in a hurry!

Look – these passes don't belong to cars. They belong to *people*. And when perfectly able-bodied people hijack them for their own selfish use, they're not only breaking the law, but they're also screaming to the world that they – and *their* convenience – are the only things that matter.

And while that doesn't qualify as a handicap, it certainly seems sick to me.

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