

The following editorials were broadcast during first quarter, 2013, 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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# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

## **A Failure of Leadership (1/3/12)**

You may think something momentous was achieved Monday when the House of Representatives approved a bill that prevented the nation from going over the “fiscal cliff.” But you’d be wrong.

Yes, taxes went up – as we all knew they would – but virtually no other aspect of America’s financial dilemma was addressed. All we got were more cynical promises that the *real* problems would be taken care of somewhere down the road. And given the current players involved, that’s not very encouraging.

Where are the leaders – the big thinkers who understand the issues facing this country are bigger than themselves? The men and women who grasp the fact that *nothing* is ever going to be accomplished without real compromise?

President Obama’s taunting demeanor in announcing the deal certainly didn’t give anyone the impression of bipartisanship. Meanwhile, the stubborn refusal of a Republican Party held hostage by its Tea Party base to allow any give-and-take whatsoever prevents *that* side from claiming any moral high ground either.

I’m afraid the few smart people remaining in government are hopelessly outnumbered by the buffoons who -- like Charlie Sheen -- like to boast that they’re “winning” when, in fact, they’re doing anything but.

*Unlike* Mr. Sheen however, these idiots aren’t just harming themselves, but America and the entire world. And as long as they persist in their clueless posturing, we can expect the bleak outlook to continue.

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

## **Hope for the New Legislature (1/10/13)**

The Kentucky legislature opened its 2013 General Assembly on Wednesday. And while I don't believe in miracles, for the first time in memory I'm guardedly optimistic that our lawmakers just might get something of substance accomplished during the 30-day session.

The big reason, of course, is that former Senate President and Obstructionist-in-Chief David Williams is finally occupied with other concerns. And the *new* Senate President, Robert Stivers, is already sending signals that cooperation and compromise won't be the dirty words during his term that they were during the Williams years.

This is good news for us all, because Kentucky can't endure any more inaction on the critical issues that continue to plague us. Whether we're talking about the state tax structure, our underfunded pension plan, an underperforming education system or expanded gambling, there are enough serious problems facing the Commonwealth to occupy an entire *year*, much less a mere month. And if anything is to be accomplished in such a short time, the old norm of obstructionism and lethargy needs to give way to a new era of mature problem-solving.

Change doesn't happen easily in Kentucky. But a *major* change from "business as usual" in Frankfort is absolutely necessary if we hope to improve our abysmal national standing. Here's hoping these are the people who can finally pull it off.

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

## **Gas Gouging Must Stop (2/5/13)**

Gas went up fifty cents over the weekend and I want to know why. Did we go to war with somebody on Friday? Did OPEC jack their prices up? Did a major refinery blow up on Saturday? What could cause prices at the pump to jump fifty cents overnight?

The answer can be summed up in one word: Monopoly. Marathon Oil has a virtual total monopoly over wholesale gasoline distribution throughout the state, and whenever they decide to hike the price by a nickel, or a dime – or fifty cents – they have no competitors who might take business from them by offering a better price.

That's a monopoly behaving badly. And Kentucky's Attorney General Jack Conway agrees. But when Mr. Conway contacted Federal Trade Commission Chairman Jon Liebowitz to demand that the federal government intervene, Mr. Liebowitz showed no interest in doing so.

Fortunately, the unconcerned Mr. Liebowitz has since resigned. And Mr. Conway has assured me that he'll be renewing his demand for a federal investigation once a successor has been chosen.

Until then however, Kentucky drivers have only two options: Pay what Marathon demands or drive less.

This is a textbook example of abuse via monopoly. And I urge Mr. Conway to be as relentless as possible in his attempts to correct this situation.

What do you think? Call and let us know.

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

## **Darts and Laurels (2/7/13)**

Time for a few Laurels – no Darts this time.

My first Laurel goes to Norton Healthcare for renewing their sponsorship of the real-time closed-captioning that's provided on every WDRB newscast for the *eighth straight year*.

Back in 2005, Norton saw the need for this vital service for the more than 150,000 deaf or hard of hearing people in the Greater Louisville area. And with their generous financial assistance, WDRB became the first station in town to offer it.

I must admit I'm a little surprised that we're *still* the only station to provide such a critical service. But maybe that just means there aren't that many Nortons out there.

Another Laurel goes to Patrick Donahoe, the Postmaster General of the United States for his decision to cut Saturday mail delivery. Times are changing and I'm encouraged that the Post Office recognizes this, even if Congress hasn't been able to. While we may be ever so slightly inconvenienced, it will save the Post Office two billion dollars a year, so I applaud Mr. Donahoe for making a tough business decision.

And finally, a Laurel goes to the Louisville Orchestra, which is showing very promising signs of health. Their two most recent concerts were not only beautifully performed but also quite well-attended. And the many new faces I saw in the audiences both nights give me hope that our city is finally ready to give its support to this outstanding group of musicians.

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

## **Attacking Elaine Chao – Crossing the Line (3/5/13)**

We already knew the battle for Mitch McConnell's Senate seat next year would get ugly. But the liberal super-PAC "Progress Kentucky" has taken things to a new and despicable low. They've accused Senator McConnell's wife Elaine Chao, a Chinese-American, of somehow being responsible for the loss of American jobs to China. They've also made allegations that campaign donations from Chao's family have helped buy state elections.

These attacks on Ms. Chao's ethnicity are not just offensive, but ridiculous. Throughout her long public career, she's served the nation as Director of the Peace Corps, President and CEO of United Way and, most recently, Secretary of Labor.

Ms. Chao isn't just an American citizen – she's demonstrated her commitment to America in more ways than most of us could ever hope to.

Happily, these offensive remarks have been condemned by many prominent Democrats who recognize when political rhetoric has crossed the line into race-baiting. But unfortunately, the condemnation hasn't been universal. And the super-PAC's alleged "apologies" have been insincere at best.

Everyone – no matter how they feel about Senator McConnell – needs to reject such offensive tactics, and make it clear there's no place in for that in Kentucky politics.

Call and tell us what you think.

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

## Sequester Scare Tactics (3/7/13)

If you think President Obama is just a victim of the mean Republicans and he never plays dirty politics, consider the Sequester – the one he agreed to 18 months ago.

As the Sequester loomed closer, the President thought he could change the deal at the last minute so he could keep on spending. But to do so he needed to raise taxes again and the House said, “No.”

In the big scheme of things, the Sequester cuts amount to a negligible savings, a minimal effect on the economy and almost no effect on most of us. But that’s not the message President Obama wants you to hear.

So the President and his administration went into panic mode. No, *they* didn’t panic. They needed *you* to panic so you’d rush to the phones and call your Congressmen. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the Sequester would cause massive delays at major airports. But airport officials say she’s wrong — they’re not delaying flights one bit.

Then, the president said the Sequester was forcing him to release two thousand criminals who also happened to be illegal immigrants. Scared yet? Despite these clumsy attempts to trick the public into supporting him, the panic has not happened.

I think it’s perfectly OK to demand the government show just a hint of the same fiscal control you and I are required to live by every day. And I believe we’re going to be just fine.

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

## **America's Bridges Are Falling Down (3/14/13)**

Word earlier this week about a possible new crack on the Kennedy Bridge was a sobering reminder that America's infrastructure continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. And no problem should concern us more.

If we could get anyone in Washington to compromise, there are many ways we could reasonably address our budget issues. I'm sure there's room for plenty of cuts in our defense budget without sacrificing our security. We could slash billions from social programs by eliminating all the waste. And yes – we *can* raise a lot of additional revenue by closing tax loopholes and maybe even modestly raising rates – as long as it's fair and across the board.

But we *can't* afford to put off the proper repair and maintenance of our national infrastructure any longer. America's Interstate highways and bridges have been neglected for so long they've reached the literal breaking point. And we got just a small taste of the consequences last year when the Sherman Minton Bridge was closed for months for emergency repairs.

Giving *any* expenditure priority over maintaining the physical links that actually connect this country from coast to coast is like insisting on buying new curtains for a house that's sitting on a crumbling foundation – laughable if it weren't so frightening.

If we're lucky, the problem on the Kennedy is relatively minor. But even if it is, it's just the tip of a very nasty iceberg.

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

## **Basketball Mirrors Reality (3/21/13)**

Like many of you, I was sorry the Kentucky Wildcats were left out of this year's NCAA tournament. If I had my way, the defending champion school would get a guaranteed bid every year. But unfortunately, the NCAA hasn't sought my advice.

There's no question however that this year's Wildcats *did* fail to live up to their potential, and it's interesting to compare that underachievement with the tremendous success UK enjoyed just a year ago.

It seems the difference is that while last year's champions were all incredible individual talents, they sublimated their personal egos, accepted direction from their coach and came together as a whole that was much greater than the sum of its parts.

But this year's edition of the Wildcats seemed to play for personal glory and never mastered the concept of team. And as a result, they were college basketball's equivalent of a beautiful yacht with a broken rudder.

This kind of group dysfunction also seems to afflict most of our elected officials. While they should -- and could -- be working together to improve the state or the nation, most abdicate that responsibility in favor of playing power games that feed their own egos. Everyone wants the MVP trophy, but no one cares if the team fails.

As the Cats discovered this year, that's no way to run a basketball team. And it's certainly no way to run a legislature.

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

## **Guest Point of View – Senator Mitch McConnell on Obamacare (3/25/13)**

Three years ago, Obamacare was passed into law. I warned then it would raise costs, cut jobs, grow the government, and slow the economy.

I desperately wish I had been wrong.

But the warnings have proved true. What's worse, Obamacare has also become a regulatory nightmare. It has spawned nearly 20,000 pages of regulations—so far.

When stacked in a pile, these pages reach more than seven feet high. I call it the “Obamacare Red Tape Tower.”

If you were a small-business owner, would you be able to read through every page?

I doubt it. And what's more, you shouldn't have to.

Some in Washington cheered the passage of Obamacare as a monument to liberalism.

But it has been a colossal mistake for our country. It needs to be repealed, root and branch, and replaced with common-sense reforms that will actually lower healthcare costs.

To truly help people burdened by rising health care costs, and to help our economy, we must continue this fight.

I'm Senator Mitch McConnell, and that's my Point of View.

## **The Downfall of Richie Farmer (3/28/13)**

He may have been a beloved member of “The Unforgettables.” But the mark he’s left on Kentucky government is likely to be even more lasting.

I’m talking, of course, about Richie Farmer, the shooting guard who dazzled UK fans over 20 years ago with his slick moves on the court and parlayed the fame he earned in Lexington into an elected position as the state’s Agriculture Commissioner.

Last week, Mr. Farmer was charged with 42 ethics violations during his tenure -- the most ever filed against a single individual in the history of the state ethics commission. The charges include – but aren’t limited to -- personal use of public funds, using state employees to perform personal services and “creating a toxic culture of entitlement.”

In fairness to Mr. Farmer, I think it’s ludicrous to claim he actually *created* that toxic culture. That culture’s been embedded in American life for generations and I’m sure the adulation he experienced as a Wildcat legend introduced him to it long before he ever became a public servant.

But that’s no excuse. Just as in basketball, Mr. Farmer had a responsibility to play by the rules in government. His actions have dishonored the overwhelming majority of public servants who do their jobs honestly and honorably. And his eye-popping list of flagrant fouls is too long – and too “Unforgettable” – to ignore.

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

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## **An Incomplete Smoking Ban (1/22/13)**

Indiana's decision last year to implement a statewide smoking ban was a wise move, and one that should serve as an example to Kentucky's legislators who have so far lacked the courage to take the same step.

But when I compare the smoking situation in *Louisville* with that in Indiana, it's the *Hoosiers* who come up short.

Why? Because the Indiana smoking ban specifically excludes bars, while Louisville's *municipal* ordinance covers them just like any other public place.

Several Indiana lawmakers have said that they don't want to take this next, logical step because they need more time to see the effects of the current law and don't want to do irreparable harm to any businesses. But there's already plenty of evidence on the effects of smoking bans in bars – 40 states already have them – and it's pretty clear they haven't been the business-killers we were warned about.

Even though Louisville heard the same doomsday arguments several years back, the local bar business seems pretty healthy to me. While I don't frequent bars all that much, virtually all my friends who do are pleased that they can enjoy themselves in an atmosphere that doesn't assault their respiratory system. And I can only imagine how relieved the workers are.

Patrons and employees of bars deserve the same public health protections as everyone else, and Indiana needs to finish the admirable job they've started.

Call and share your thoughts.

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## **Darts and Laurels (2/7/13)**

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## **Guest Editorial – Child Care Advocates (2/22/13)**

It is rare that a guest in this position can break a news story. Within the next eight months Kentucky will see a loss of 2,400 jobs from an industry the state is choosing to decimate. 1,200 of these jobs will be lost in Louisville. Hundreds of licensed child care centers will be forced to operate at fifty to sixty percent capacity and many will simply shut down.

Sadly, the Cabinet for Health and Welfare has caused an uncertain future for thousands of parents and children. Today, right now, these youngest Kentuckians are having their minds developed by professionals who work for the thousands of licensed child care centers throughout our Commonwealth. In a few months who really knows who will be giving care to these same children?

This projected news story can be bypassed. The Knights in armor that can change this are elected, sworn and serve in the Capitol. This Governor and General Assembly have a history of helping the most vulnerable, be they old or toddlers. Working together, these men and women can find the funding. They can save the Child Care Assistance Program.

We at Child Care Advocates of Kentucky plead for you to call and/or email the Governor and General Assembly with your support. Tell today's leaders to restore funding for the children.

I'm Steve Magre and that's my Point of View.

## **Darts and Laurels (2/28/13)**

Time for Darts and Laurels – one of each this time.

My Laurel goes to Louisville's newest homegrown celebrity, Jennifer Lawrence, who won the "Best Actress" Academy Award last weekend for her performance in "Silver Linings Playbook." Ever since gaining major attention in "Winter's Bone" a few years back, Ms. Lawrence has been regarded as one of Hollywood's top talents and she's been featured in several huge hits. But what really impresses me is that despite her relatively sudden fame, she's managed to stay grounded and live her very public life in a dignified manner.

Obviously, that's not always the case with many young "stars" these days, and Ms. Lawrence deserves a lot of credit for being such an elegant representative of our city.

But my Dart goes to the anything *but* elegant dog owners who are making life miserable for visitors to the newly-opened Big Four Bridge by refusing to clean up after their pets. Because of their irresponsibility, it looks as if the Waterfront Development Corporation may have to take the step of banning *all* dogs on the bridge in the future.

That would be a shame for the overwhelming majority of *responsible* dog owners who understand that the public at large should be able to enjoy this new attraction without constantly watching where we step. But unless the offenders clean up their act – literally – I'm afraid a total ban on dogs is the only possible solution.

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

## **Point of View Guest Editorial - Chad Boseker (3/1/13)**

It's often far too easy to underestimate the importance of cancer research until you hear the words "you have cancer."

My name is Chad Boseker. I am a cancer survivor. And I am passionate about doing everything I can to help fight cancer so that my kids will never hear those dreaded words. One way our community can help make my wish a reality is by enrolling in the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study-3.

The goal of CPS-3 is to enroll men and women across the U.S. to participate in a study that will help researchers better understand the lifestyle, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and will save lives. Individuals between the ages of 30 and 65 who have never been diagnosed with cancer and who are willing to make a long-term commitment to the study will be able to enroll March 19-20 in Louisville and Southern Indiana. You can see the locations and times of enrollment by visiting [cps3kyin.org](http://cps3kyin.org).

I encourage all eligible men and women in our community to consider taking part in this important study. I also call on my fellow cancer survivors to spread the word by asking others to enroll in your honor. One person can make the difference in a new discovery about cancer that could prevent someone from hearing the words "you have cancer."

You can be that person. You can make a difference by enrolling in CPS-3.

I'm Chad Boseker, and that's my Point of View.

# EDUCATION

## **More Help Isn't Always Best (1/24/13)**

Here's some interesting news:

A recent study conducted by the American Sociological Review found a small, but significant, correlation between the amount of money contributed by parents and the grade point average of students. But it wasn't a *positive* correlation. It appears that the *more* money mom and dad supply, the *lower* the grades are.

This makes sense when you think about it. Students whose college years are largely – or completely – subsidized by their parents have far less of their own “skin” in the game. It's not *their* investment that depends upon maximizing their performance in the classroom. It's *someone else's*. And it's a lot easier to be careless when you're playing with someone else's money.

This certainly doesn't mean parents who are financially able should stop helping with tuition and other expenses. But it does make me think that many students receiving such assistance may need a reality check when it comes to being accountable for how the money is spent.

Ideally, that accountability should originate with the student. And in many cases, it does. But parents also should be willing to say “enough” when their kid starts placing more importance on the next keg party than studying for his math final.

Just writing more checks isn't helping. It's enabling. And insisting on proper effort as a condition of continued assistance isn't just good business – it's good parenting.

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

## GUEST EDITORIAL – HAL HEINER (2/18)

Louisville's public schools are failing our children. Of the 41 Kentucky schools identified as persistently low achieving or failing, Louisville is home to nearly half - a situation so dire that Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday called it academic genocide.

Louisville's problem is not uncommon for large cities but what makes it more difficult to turn them around is our unwillingness to implement new forms of education with a proven track record. In every state in America except for eight, *school districts have the ability to convert failing schools into public charter schools, but not in Kentucky!* Public charter schools have the *freedom* to set new curriculum and give parents the ability to choose a school that fits the individual needs of their child.

But in Kentucky, the teachers union overwhelmingly opposes any effort to allow public charter schools. They make it all but impossible to replace an under-performing teacher, and their system places teachers with the least experience in our most troubled schools.

Commissioner Holliday said the community should be outraged and I assure you many of us are. It's time for all of us to take action and demand a change. Call your state legislators; call your school board members, and tell them we can't lose another generation of children.

Let's together give public charter schools a chance now.

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

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **Guest Point of View - Ken Fleming – Local Option Sales Tax** **(1/14/13)**

Mayor Fisher is pushing to change state law to allow for the creation of Local Option Sales Tax also known as LOST. This new additional tax requires support from the General Assembly, as well as Kentucky voters. Louisville Metro would take in nearly \$100 million annually for designated projects.

This represents a 20% increase in revenues, but more importantly, this additional 1% creates a HEAVIER tax burden on you. Supporters say we will be competitive with other cities, but they fail to mention our overall tax burden.

Independent studies rank Louisville as one of the 10 MOST TAXED CITIES in the country, regardless of income. We pay more in taxes than families in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, DC and even San Francisco. Increasing our tax burden doesn't make us more competitive.

As an alternative, we can create more jobs by eliminating the occupational tax. Any proposal should be focused on creating -- not discouraging -- jobs. Tax reform is desperately needed and using LOST to eliminate occupational taxes is one way to real reform.

I'm Councilman Ken Fleming and that's my Point of View.

## **Darts and Laurels (1/31/13)**

Time for a few more Darts and Laurels.

My first Laurel goes to Kentucky's Tourism Development Finance Authority for their preliminary approval of financial incentives to aid Ed Hart in reopening Kentucky Kingdom.

Now that the lease agreement between Hart's group and the Fair Board has finally been approved, these incentives could be critical to the venture's ultimate success. And I believe the jobs that will be created and the added tourism benefits the park will provide make them well worth it.

In the same vein, my next Laurel goes to the Louisville Slugger Museum, in recognition of its third consecutive record year of attendance. Ever since opening in 1996, Slugger Museum has been one of Louisville's most enduring attractions for tourists and locals alike. And the nearly quarter-million people who visited this year would seem to indicate it'll still be around for many more years to come.

But finally, a Dart goes to the NRA for its persistent opposition to universal background checks of gun purchasers. NRA President Wayne LaPierre is correct in saying that such checks will always be avoided by those who acquire guns illegally. But following that logic, we should do away with laws against murder and robbery because there will always be people who will break *them*.

Gun rights advocates *do* have valid points to make in defending their Second Amendment rights. But this isn't one of them.

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

## **Legalize Hemp (2/14/13)**

I'm not an expert on either hemp or marijuana. But based on what I understand about proposals to legalize the growing of industrial hemp in Kentucky, it seems like a good idea to me.

Proponents of the idea – including Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer – point out that hemp is already a major agricultural product in China, Africa and Europe. And that becoming the first state in the U.S. to grow the crop would provide a major boost to the Commonwealth -- to both farming *and* manufacturing.

Some law enforcement officials oppose the idea, saying officers in the field would have a difficult time distinguishing industrial hemp from marijuana. But Comer says the sheriffs and police chiefs in the communities he visits assure him they can tell the difference.

Besides, if we followed that reasoning, it'd be illegal to grow corn, wheat or soybeans if they happened to look like marijuana!

Yes, growing hemp is still illegal on the *federal* level. But Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell and several other legislators are spearheading efforts in Washington to strike down *that* prohibition as well. And if that happens, Kentucky needs to be ready to take advantage of the opportunity.

Kentucky has, for too long, been disproportionately dependent upon tobacco – a product with a bleak future. Hemp could provide us with a much brighter economic outlook. And I'd like to see our lawmakers give it a chance.

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

# COURTS & LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Guns Are a Big Problem, But Not the Only One (1/8/13)**

I've said it before, but it bears repeating:

I can think of no possible reason why we, as American citizens, allow civilian possession of assault weapons. Their only purpose is to make human slaughter as swift and efficient as possible and I believe giving them the same Constitutional protection as legitimate firearms like those used for hunting or personal protection is irresponsible and intellectually dishonest.

Having said that however, I'll be the first to acknowledge that preventing future bloodbaths through gun regulation alone probably won't succeed without also addressing society's unhealthy obsession with violence as entertainment.

You may share my disdain for guns. But let's be honest. Do you really believe today's crop of ultra-violent video games can't possibly have a desensitizing effect on the young people who play them? Or that the movies and TV shows that continually stretch the boundaries of violence and gore have *no* potential whatsoever to influence behavior?

If mass media has no power to influence the kinds of decisions we make, then why do companies pay millions of dollars to advertise in the Super Bowl?

I still think we should ban all assault weapons. But I know that's only one step. Our society contributes to this problem in far too many other ways involving personal irresponsibility, and the sooner we *also* recognize that, the closer we'll be to a solution.

Call, and let us know your thoughts.

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

## **Clumsy Delivery Shouldn't Negate O'Connell's Message (1/15/13)**

Jefferson County Attorney Mike O'Connell created a controversy recently when he sent a letter to district court judges, berating them for allowing defense attorneys to use a controversial tactic that results in a large number of acquittals in DUI cases.

Many of the judges felt threatened and pointed out that they're powerless in any case to change the procedures in question because they're established by Kentucky's Supreme Court.

The judges are correct in saying they have to live by the Supreme Court's parameters. And, understandably, defense attorneys will never surrender quietly when threatened with any restriction on their arsenal of tactics.

But even though O'Connell may have delivered it somewhat clumsily, his message needs to be heard. Because the last thing our Commonwealth needs to be known for is lenient treatment of drunk drivers.

If the Kentucky Supreme Court can eliminate this loophole by requiring challenges to the admissibility of evidence BEFORE any trial begins, then they should. While those accused of drunk driving deserve every right to defend themselves in court, they should NOT have the opportunity to "game" the system to achieve results that allow the guilty to go free.

Justice must apply to victims as well as the accused, and I hope our Supreme Court will address this concern and act appropriately if it comes before them.

Call and tell us what you think.

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# MEDIA

## **The Courier's Thin Skin (2/19/13)**

The Courier-Journal's lone local conservative columnist, John David Dyche, has decided to quit after the paper refused to run one of his recent submissions.

The points made in the censored column were no different from the many conservative stands Mr. Dyche *was* allowed to voice during his nearly ten years with the C-J. But you see, this time it was personal.

This column suggested changes the Courier might make in order to gain more credibility with its audience – and maybe more profitability. And, not surprisingly, it called for more openness about the political affiliations of the paper's editors, a clearer separation of its editorial and news staffs and a more balanced presentation of liberal and conservative views.

Hardly earth-shaking ideas. The presence of liberal bias at the Courier is obvious to anyone who reads it – on the right *or* left. But being taken to task in their own pages was apparently more than the C-J editors could stand. They could look the other way as long as Dyche's columns criticized President Obama, Congressman Yarmuth or Governor Beshear. But once *they* became the target of his barbs, they had to nip it in the bud.

Columnists shouldn't have *any* sacred cows, much less work for one. So Dyche had little choice but to resign.

What do you think? Call and tell us.

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

## **Sometimes the News Isn't Pretty (3/12/13)**

Listening to a confessed rapist/murderer calmly describing his horrific crime during a televised interview with local media members last week couldn't have been easy for anyone – me included. But with that said, it *was* news. And I strongly disagree with those who condemned the local TV stations – including WDRB -- for airing the interview.

It was a significant piece of a story we'd been closely following up to that point. Killers are seldom willing – or allowed by their lawyers -- to sit in front of cameras and not only admit to the crime before trial, but tell us what he was thinking and how he did it. From that, perhaps we can gain insights for the future. And, of course, everything in his confession will be used against him in court and perhaps save the victim's family from having to relive it all during a trial.

Believe me, *I* had mixed feelings about airing his comments. But there was really no choice. This was right from the mouth of the killer and does bring some closure to the story. Could we have edited it differently? Of course. Would it have made it a better story? I'm not sure.

We reported the murder and we reported the arrest. We wouldn't be much of a news organization if we ignored the killer's confession in a case as prominent as this one.

Call and share your thoughts.

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# THE ARTS

## **Darts and Laurels (2/7/13)**

Time for a few Laurels – no Darts this time.

My first Laurel goes to Norton Healthcare for renewing their sponsorship of the real-time closed-captioning that's provided on every WDRB newscast for the *eighth straight year*.

Back in 2005, Norton saw the need for this vital service for the more than 150,000 deaf or hard of hearing people in the Greater Louisville area. And with their generous financial assistance, WDRB became the first station in town to offer it.

I must admit I'm a little surprised that we're *still* the only station to provide such a critical service. But maybe that just means there aren't that many Nortons out there.

Another Laurel goes to Patrick Donahoe, the Postmaster General of the United States for his decision to cut Saturday mail delivery. Times are changing and I'm encouraged that the Post Office recognizes this, even if Congress hasn't been able to. While we may be ever so slightly inconvenienced, it will save the Post Office two billion dollars a year, so I applaud Mr. Donahoe for making a tough business decision.

And finally, a Laurel goes to the Louisville Orchestra, which is showing very promising signs of health. Their two most recent concerts were not only beautifully performed but also quite well-attended. And the many new faces I saw in the audiences both nights give me hope that our city is finally ready to give its support to this outstanding group of musicians.

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

## Darts and Laurels (2/28/13)

Time for Darts and Laurels – one of each this time.

My Laurel goes to Louisville's newest homegrown celebrity, Jennifer Lawrence, who won the "Best Actress" Academy Award last weekend for her performance in "Silver Linings Playbook." Ever since gaining major attention in "Winter's Bone" a few years back, Ms. Lawrence has been regarded as one of Hollywood's top talents and she's been featured in several huge hits. But what really impresses me is that despite her relatively sudden fame, she's managed to stay grounded and live her very public life in a dignified manner.

Obviously, that's not always the case with many young "stars" these days, and Ms. Lawrence deserves a lot of credit for being such an elegant representative of our city.

But my Dart goes to the anything *but* elegant dog owners who are making life miserable for visitors to the newly-opened Big Four Bridge by refusing to clean up after their pets. Because of their irresponsibility, it looks as if the Waterfront Development Corporation may have to take the step of banning *all* dogs on the bridge in the future.

That would be a shame for the overwhelming majority of *responsible* dog owners who understand that the public at large should be able to enjoy this new attraction without constantly watching where we step. But unless the offenders clean up their act – literally – I'm afraid a total ban on dogs is the only possible solution.

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# RELIGION

## **The New Pope – One Overriding Responsibility (3/19/13)**

The selection of a new Pope is both historic and significant.

Historic because a change in the Catholic Church's leadership is extremely rare – this is only the sixth in my lifetime. And significant because with over 75 million Catholics in the U.S. and over 1.2 billion worldwide, any Pope wields huge power and influence over world affairs.

Right now, the top priority for the new Pope Francis I has to be to restore the credibility of the Church regarding the many revelations concerning child sexual abuse that have surfaced in recent decades.

Certainly most Catholic priests aren't child abusers. But the many *cover-ups* of abusive behavior by bishops and other church leaders has caused many people to question whether the Church values its image over its moral responsibilities.

It's up to Pope Francis I to change that perception. He must make it clear that merely shuffling sexual abusers from one parish to another – or shielding them in any other way -- will no longer be tolerated. And that from now on, any authority figure who knowingly covers up abusive behavior will be subject to the same discipline as the abuser himself.

How could any man stand in judgment one day before God and explain how he did less?

Call and tell us what you think.

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