

WDRB-TV
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ISSUES & PROGRAMS

EDITORIALS

SECOND QUARTER, 2019

COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POV | Darts and Laurels

Apr 4, 2019

I'm going to throw no Darts and three Laurels today.

A laurel to a restaurateur, known best by just one name, who came to this country fifty years ago. Without speaking a word of English, Vincenzo left Palermo, Italy and landed in New York on April 4th, 1969. By April 5th he had his first job in the U.S. restaurant business. Vincenzo has not only owned one of Louisville's finest restaurants for decades, but he has been one of its finest and proudest citizens. I do not exaggerate when I say, Vincenzo's influence and mentorship of countless other restaurateurs has been so profound, without him, Louisville would probably be an ordinary food town.

Another laurel to the Yum! Center. Without it, Louisville doesn't host the first round of the women's NCAA Tournament one weekend and the men's Sweet 16 the next. Without it no extra visitors from out of town, no extra hotel rooms filled, no surge of restaurant and museum guests, no extra tips and taxes generated, and no national exposure for Louisville those two weekends. The Yum! Center brings a lot of quality of life benefits to Louisville.

A final laurel, this time to the Louisville women and the Kentucky men for both making the Elite 8. Although I know both teams are disappointed they didn't go farther, I say congratulations to both.

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

CULTURE

POV | The Amazing National Anthem Moments Before The Kentucky Derby

May 7, 2019

I witnessed the most remarkable thing at the Kentucky Derby Saturday, and no, it wasn't the disqualification of Maximum Security.

I was standing in line to make my \$2 bet for the turf race before the Derby. There were probably 500 people around me, maybe more. Many were in line to place their own bets, many others just milling about. There was the usual noise a crowd like that makes. It was loud.

Over the PA speaker, I faintly heard Jennifer Nettles begin singing the National Anthem. I figured people were too preoccupied to quiet down for it, but gradually, it started getting quieter. And quieter. Then it was totally silent, and if not for her voice, you could have heard a pin drop – until people started singing. Softly at first, then louder. Near the end everyone in that lobby was singing as loudly as a choir, together, to honor our country. It was an amazing moment.

At a time when a few athletes are kneeling during the Anthem, and others have suggested we should stop playing it before sporting events so it can't be disrespected, the moment I experienced told me loud and clear that our Anthem, and what it stands for, is important to most Americans.

So what are your thoughts? Should we stop singing it before sporting events to protect it, or should we sing it louder?

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

POV | It Pays to Wait on Social Security

It's tempting for some to retire early and start taking social security benefits at age 62, but if you can wait, that is the smart move. The average Social Security benefit in Kentucky is roughly \$16,000 per year. Even with Social Security, some 13% of Kentucky seniors live in poverty.

A lot of people say they plan to retire early simply because they are "sick and tired of working." If they retire too soon, they might be even more sick and tired of not having enough money in old age.

You can increase the size of your future Social Security checks by delaying retirement. If you wait until you're 66 to start taking your benefit, you can receive up to 44% more. And your cost of living increases going forward will be based on the higher amount. Life expectancy is much longer now than it was in 1935 when social security was created. Seniors of today must survive on their fixed incomes even longer.

Of course, not everyone can wait to claim benefits until full retirement age. Poor health, physical limitations, workplace changes, caregiving demands and unemployment are a few of the factors that can make it difficult to wait to file for Social Security. But for people who are able to continue working until at least their full retirement age, if not longer, it pays to wait.

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

POV | There Will Always Be NIMBYs

By: BILL LAMB

Jun 4, 2019

Louisville quite often moves forward despite well-meaning obstructionists.

You may remember back in the 70s Delta wanted to put a hub in Shelby County. That would have been life-changing for this region, but the political and business leadership fought it and successfully killed it. That was a lost opportunity.

When Jerry Abramson's administration wanted to expand the Louisville airport to increase the capacity of the UPS hub here in the late 80s the people who lived near the airport fought it until they lost, and it has been a boon for our economy.

Years ago neighbors went to court to prevent the Baxter Avenue Theaters from going into the Mid-City Mall. They lost and those theaters have been great for the Highlands.

Walmart wanted to put a quality-of-life changing store in the West End, but a few fools starting dictating terms and Walmart said, "Never mind." Another lost opportunity.

River Fields fought the east end bridge, ultimately failing, but they caused an unnecessary \$300 million tunnel to be built and prevented a logical exit to be added at Hwy 42. The bridge has been a real blessing for traffic flow.

History shows there always will a group of neighbors to oppose any progress, but that doesn't mean what they protest will be bad for the neighborhood at all. In most cases it has turned out rather well.

What are your thoughts?

POV | Rules To Pass Down To a Son

Jun 6, 2019

By: Bill Lamb

There are people amongst us who would like to change many of the values that made this country great. Some say they are old fashioned. Some are just not being taught anymore. The absence of these values is making us weak. In the spirit of helping raise strong young men, I would offer some rules that we should all pass down to our sons.

- Never shake a person's hand while you're sitting down.
- When shaking hands, grip firmly and look them in the eye.
- If all the seats are taken, offer yours to women and the elderly.
- In a negotiation, never make the first offer.
- When entrusted with a secret, keep it.
- Don't enter a pool by the stairs. Dive in.
- Return a borrowed car with a full tank of gas.
- You can never go wrong, if you're a little overdressed.
- Never turn down a breath mint.
- If you are texting at the beach, you're missing the point.
- Play to win. Participation ribbons are worthless.
- After writing an angry email, read it carefully. Then delete it.
- Praise in public. Criticize in private.
- Be confident and humble at the same time.
- There is no such thing as "situational integrity."

Pass those along to someone you care about. I promise, they will do no harm.
I'm Bill Lamb, and that's my Point of View.

GUEST POV | Castleman statue opponents don't understand his role in history

Steve Wiser - Jun 10, 2019

Hello, I'm Steve Wiser, a local architect and historian. Like you, I've been hearing a lot about the John B. Castleman statue in the Cherokee Triangle neighborhood that the city now wants removed.

Castleman has been called a racist, a traitor, and it is said he segregated the parks.

Well, I thought I'd do my own research. And guess what? I found just the opposite. Did you know the parks were segregated in 1924, six years after Castleman's death in 1918?

In fact, African American leaders praised Castleman for keeping the parks integrated against demands to segregate them. And, did you know Castleman saved African American's from lynching? He stood up for racial justice long before it became a popular.

Yes, Castleman was a Confederate for two and a half years. A traitor? Lincoln prevented his execution and President Johnson pardoned him.

The statue has no military symbolism. It depicts Castleman in his senior years, riding his Saddlebred horse. He founded the American Saddlebred Horse Association.

He was a General in the U.S. Army and a Veteran of Foreign Wars. Castleman lived an exemplary life for the next 53 years making Louisville a better place in which to live for all residents.

Isn't that someone we should admire and not denigrate? If you agree, contact the Mayor to keep the Castleman statue where it is. I'm Steve Wiser and That's My Point of View.

POV | Handicapped Parking is For the Handicapped

Jun 11, 2019

We've all seen people pull into a handicapped parking space, hop out of the car and walk into the store, right? They are perfectly healthy but they are trying to game the system. If you were to tell them, "Hey! That space is for handicapped people," they might shout back at you, "I have a handicapped parking tag!" As if that settles it.

Here's the point. The handicapped parking pass is issued to the person with the handicap, not to the car. It is not transferable and just because you are in possession of someone else's pass doesn't mean you get to use it, if they aren't there. Now that you know this, I hope you are very self-conscious the next time you are trying to grab a parking space from someone who really may need it. I hope you're aware that people are watching you and judging you because they probably are.

While we're talking about it, you should never park in the ramp section next to a handicapped parking space. People in wheel chairs need that space to access their vehicles. It's there for a reason, and it isn't for you to park in.

The world is selfish enough. We need to be more considerate of each other and a good place to start is by not taking advantage of handicapped people.

Give us a call with your thoughts.

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

GOVERNMENT
& POLITICS

POV | Chicago: Another Fine Mess

Apr 2, 2019

Chicago has another mess on its hands. As you may recall, little known actor Jussie Smollett faked an attack on himself to raise his profile and perhaps, in his mind, get a better TV contract. He said he was attacked by two white Trump supporters, yet all the evidence overwhelmingly says he hired two black associates to beat him up gently. The police, the mayor, the witnesses he hired, and the state's attorney all agree on this.

Despite the evidence, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx refused to press charges, and the police are furious after building a strong case.

They should be furious. They did good police work and deserve a pat on the back for a job well done. I think the mayor is right to demand Smollett repay the city the \$130,000 they spent to investigate his bogus attack, and I hope they get it.

But I also agree with Foxx who wrote, "Falsely reporting a hate crime is a dangerous and unlawful act, and Smollett was not exonerated of that in this case. Our criminal justice system is at its best when jails are used to protect us from the people we rightly fear, while alternative outcomes are reserved for the people who make us angry."

Look, this guy made himself radioactive, and his career is in shambles. That's a pretty severe punishment.

What are your thoughts? Call us.

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

POV | Gov. Bevin's Thin Skin

Apr 16, 2019 Updated 20 hrs ago

Once again, I was very disappointed in Gov. Matt Bevin but not surprised. He has frequently displayed a thin skin and can't stand it if someone pokes a little fun at him. A couple weeks ago, he congratulated the Kentucky men's basketball team for making the Elite Eight, which was nice, but completely forgot that the Louisville women did the same thing.

Coach Jeff Walz, who always has a sense of humor, kidded the governor a little by saying, "I'll make sure to let my players know you said congrats." Since Bevin never admits mistakes and must always save face, he went on Terry Meiners show last week and said that U of L lost to Connecticut because Walz was too distracted by his tweets and was out coached. Really? That was necessary? That's just hitting below the belt.

I wish Bevin was a more gracious man. As governor, he hasn't accomplished a fraction of what Jeff Walz has as a coach, a mentor or a man. With Bevin's record, he is certainly the last person who should be critiquing someone else's job performance, let alone Jeff Walz, who is an A+ elite coach.

I don't know why Bevin is spending his precious time being needlessly nasty when we could all benefit from him focusing on the true problems he was elected to address.

What are your thoughts?

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

POV | The Folly of Cake-and-Eat-It-Too Economics

Apr 30, 2019

It's an interesting world we live in where we actually think we can have our cake and eat it too.

You'll remember a few weeks back Mayor Fischer told us that Louisville would have to pay \$65 million because of the pension bill the state slapped on us. We had two options: We could either add a relatively small tax to insurance premiums, or we would have to make some significant cuts in city services.

The reaction to his proposal was, "No. We're not going to pay any more taxes. You'll have to think of something else." These people thought there was a third option which was no taxes and no cuts.

Where did they get their training in budget management, Venezuela?

That's not how it works. Cuts are coming and it's going to mean real layoffs to good people and a reduction of some city services.

Now the same people who said "No" to a tax increase are screaming about the cuts. The cuts will probably be worse next year as the burden gets bigger.

We need to be fair to Mayor Fischer. He didn't do anything to incur these pension expenses. He was told by the state, "Here they are. Deal with them." His choices were limited and he's doing what he was elected to do.

What are your thoughts? Call us to voice your opinion.

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

POV | Our Obligation as Voters

May 9, 2019

We have entered another political season, and this one will last for another 18 months. As voters, I want to remind you of a few basic things.

The ads purchased by political action committees are required to be truthful. Often, they are full of misleading statements and damaging accusations, but they weave just enough truth to meet the letter of the law. As television operators, if we catch them in an untruthful statement, we have the authority and obligation to remove their ad.

Not true with Federal political candidates. They are unlimited in what they can say. The law says a station must broadcast a candidate's ad uncensored – no matter how offensive, distasteful, untruthful or defamatory it may be.

I'm not saying all political candidates lie – let's make that clear, but you and I, as voters, have an obligation to be informed. We must question statements made as facts and do a little research. We shouldn't vote for a candidate based on solely their sex, race, age or whether they shook our hands once at a fish fry any more than you should bet big on a racehorse because you like his name.

My advice is watch the ads, watch the debates, listen to what they say, but do your homework. Question what they say. You have the privilege to vote and with that comes an obligation to be informed.

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

POV | How To Fix Indiana's Road Construction Problems

May 28, 2019

I do most of my driving in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, so perhaps my experience with how different states handle road construction is a little limited.

I just drove from Louisville to Peoria, Illinois for Memorial Day weekend and what I observed has been the same thing I've seen for more than 23 years; Indiana road construction is the worst I think I've ever seen. It's not that they have so much construction going on, because I don't think it's more than most states. It's that they take so long to do it. That is probably because I seldom actually see any work being done. All the equipment I passed on Friday was sitting unattended. When I drive through miles of Indiana construction, I almost never see anyone actually working.

If I wanted to run for governor of Indiana and win, my platform would be that road crews would be required to work three shifts around the clock until the job is done. I would put incentives on finishing ahead of schedule and big penalties if they are late.

We know this system works because that's how we got two bridges, a tunnel, and Spaghetti Junction completed in about two years – all of it on schedule. I would like to know who benefits from this laissez faire construction schedule that Indiana currently employs.

What are your thoughts? Call us.

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

SPORTS

POV | The Derby Festival's Trojan Horse

Apr 18, 2019

Every few years, the Kentucky Derby Festival changes the colors of the jackets, but the design is always about the same. It is a solid, often vibrant color, with Pegasus horses scattered all over them. They are loud, tacky and uniquely Kentucky Derby Festival.

A couple years ago, a guy named Andre Wilson was hired to take the same design and bring new colors to it. He did. The jackets look almost exactly like they have for the past 20 plus years except now they are a hot pink with teal Pegasus horses on them. Wilson did the job he was hired to do and was paid in full. Suddenly, he's threatening to sue the Festival claiming, "I created something. Now the Festival is ... getting ready to literally make millions off of it."

Let me be clear. He created nothing. He swapped colors on an existing design as he was asked to do. He is trying to get something for nothing, which is disgusting. The millions that he says the festival will make is the money the staff and volunteers raise every year to put on all the events for you and me including Thunder Over Louisville.

The Derby Festival is a nonprofit, and Andre Wilson is trying to manufacture a way to take money he is absolutely not entitled to. Where I come from, that is not honorable.

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

POV | We Need Cool Heads to Deal with Thoroughbred Crisis

Apr 25, 2019

One of the biggest recent sports stories is the unusually high number of fatal injuries that have befallen horses over the past few months at California's Santa Anita Race course. And since California is a very liberal state where organizations like PETA have a lot of support, there's been justified worry that this could trigger legislation that ultimately results in – worst case scenario -- an outright ban on thoroughbred racing in the United States.

This certainly IS a problem that needs serious attention. But the fact is, X number of thoroughbreds are going to break down during their lifetimes *no matter what*. They're specifically bred to be fast, and the same breeding factors that make them fast also make them fragile.

Many say, "If that's the case, we *should* stop racing them."

But if we do that, they'll simply cease to exist. Without the money that thoroughbred racing generates, there would be no incentive for anyone to assume the extreme expense of breeding them.

Despite our most fervent wishes, there won't be any magical "Thoroughbred World," where these beauties simply run free and happy year-round simply to entertain families who visit during spring break. They'll just be extinct. And that would be a shame.

We should surely do all we can to prevent unnecessary on-track deaths. But let's not let hysteria be the downfall of one of the world's finest institutions.

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

POV | Derby Guests – Welcome to Louisville!

May 2, 2019

We are just hours away from the renewal of the Kentucky Oaks and the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby. If you are a guest from out of town, welcome to Louisville. We're glad you're here.

From this point leading up to the greatest two minutes in sports, there will be galas, celebrities, and of course, bourbon. There will be beautiful dresses, spectacular hats, and tens of thousands of good looking human beings. There will be the thrill of large sums of money won - and lost. There might be sunshine, there might be rain - one year there was even snow - but a good time will be had by most everyone.

The Kentucky Derby is the longest running continuous sporting event in the United States, dating back to 1875. It has never been interrupted for depressions, wars, or weather. The greatest racehorse of all time, Secretariat still holds the record for running the fastest Derby ever in 1973, but who knows what this year holds?

The Preakness and Belmont are nice too, but both can only dream of being The Kentucky Derby, when they grow up. It's the biggest and grandest horse race in the entire world.

You will be sharing the experience with 170,000 of your closest friends, so be smart, have fun, and enjoy your time in Louisville, Kentucky. We're glad to have you!

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

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
& WELFARE

GUEST POV | We can all play a role in keeping kids safe

Apr 12, 2019 Updated Apr 12, 2019

By: Keith Inman
President of Kosair Charities

Did you know that last year alone, 3,080 children experienced abuse or neglect in Louisville? At Kosair Charities, we are committed to ending child abuse.

Through the Face It Movement, over 70 partner organizations across Kentucky are focused on promoting best practices in abuse prevention and intervention, engaging the community, and advocating for policy change.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and we can all play a role in keeping kids safe. Parents can be empowered to ask for help when they need it.

Pediatricians and other professionals can share information with parents on appropriate expectations and tools to keeping kids safe. Neighbors can offer to help a parent who seems overwhelmed. Faith communities can support families in need. Coaches and teachers can report when they suspect a child is being abused.

Schools, child care centers, and after-school programs can ensure staff are trained and safe. Youth can be empowered to speak up when they know something is not right. And, state and local leaders can prioritize policies that help keep kids safe.

Kentucky has the highest rate in the nation of child victims of abuse. I urge you to know your role in keeping kids safe.

Together we can face these obstacles and build a more supportive community and stronger families - this month and beyond.

I'm Keith Inman and that's my point of view.

GUEST POV | An alternate view on college attendance

Apr 19, 2019

You've heard it all your life: "You have to go to college first to be successful.

It's hard to break this mind-set America has had for generations. But this mind-set has added \$1.4 trillion in student loans to the national debt to be paid by young adults who are unemployed or underemployed.

The current American model for college attendance is this:

- Take loans to pay for an education
- Take on debt after college
- Slowly gain experience
- Reach your earning potential decades later.

There are alternative paths to a college degree and rewarding career - minus the debt.

One of those paths is the U.S. Army.

The Army provides a model for college attendance that looks like this: Join the Army and gain experience first! Attend college for free (during and after the Army)

Get paid throughout the process while learning leadership, teamwork, and gaining veteran's benefits along the way.

The Army allows young Americans to avoid debt while getting a free education and gaining experience in more than 150 career fields including cyber, medical, aviation, and STEM.

It's time America reconsiders its model for college attendance. We have to stop looking at the Army as an alternative to college and start looking at the Army as a better path to a free education. If you are interested in opportunities in the Army visit www.goarmy.com/louisville

I'm Col. Eric Lopez and that's my Point of View.

GUEST POV | JCPS superintendent finds success in digital backpacks, facility investments

May 31, 2019

By: Dr. Marty Pollio
Superintendent - Jefferson County Public Schools

I was named Superintendent of this district 15 months ago in the middle of challenging times.

Turning things around hasn't been easy. This is tough, hard work, but I could not be more proud of what we've accomplished in the past year.

Our digital Backpack will ensure every student in JCPS is on track to being college and career ready. This platform provides every student with more meaningful and engaging experiences in the classroom.

More than 20,000 - 5th, 8th, and 12th graders are defending their success skills in their Backpacks.

Major facility change has not occurred in this district in many years. Our newest high school turned 50 in 2018, and we have another high school with a condemned third floor. Our board courageously voted to approve three brand new elementary schools, a middle school, and the renovation of the Academy at Shawnee.

We have increased our supports to schools – by providing mental health professionals for all students.

We are also ensuring equity for all students and reducing our achievement gap. This has come through our racial equity policy and the opening of two new schools.

I believe we have accomplished more in JCPS in the past year than any other urban district in America. We have more work to do but we are on the way to becoming a model school district.

I'm Dr. Marty Pollio and that's my Point of View.