

WDRB-TV
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENCE TELEVISION COMPANY

ISSUES & PROGRAMS

EDITORIALS

FIRST QUARTER, 2019

GOVERNMENT
& POLITICS

POV | Does Trump really understand negotiating?

Jan 8, 2019 Updated Jan 9, 2019

I'm going to tell you a little secret. I always thought Donald Trump was an expert negotiator. I bought his book, "The Art of the Deal" in 1987. The book talks about the negotiating skills necessary to make the big deals.

After watching him for two years, I'm sorry to say I don't think he is a good negotiator at all. His style is simple. If he has what he perceives to be the power, he uses it to try to crush and humiliate the other party.

And he uses the same technique when he doesn't have the leverage, which is even worse.

For example, if he would have said, "Hey Chuck, Nancy. The people elected me on the wall thing. They want the wall. You may not love it, but let's do the wall and I'll work with you on something that's important to you," he probably would have gotten it done much less painfully.

But he chose to try to humiliate them in front of the cameras in the Oval Office and he left them with no ability to save face.

He has done the same thing to Mexico, who won't be paying for the wall, and to China over trade issues.

Effective negotiation is more subtle and when done well, it is win-win. I'm not sure what he's trying to do is actually called negotiation.

What are your thoughts?

POV | Are Better Roads Worth an Extra Dime a Gallon?

Jan 14, 2019 Updated Jan 15, 2019

It is probably safe to say that no taxpayer is looking for more taxes to pay. It's also safe to say that state roads, highways and bridges are not in as good shape as any of us would like.

Lower gas prices and more fuel efficient vehicles have hurt the state road fund which gets a percentage of every gallon of gas sold. In [a story on WDRB.com](#), [Marcus Green](#) and [Sara Sidery](#), tell us the Kentucky State Legislature is now looking to increase the tax on gas by 10 cents a gallon.

Just like you, I don't like paying more taxes, but I also recognize that the road fairy isn't coming to the rescue. We can either pay a little more for the privilege of driving on nice, safe roads, or we can keep the status quo and our roads and bridges will continue to deteriorate.

If you are dead set against paying another cent in taxes, I get it, but when you hit a pothole the size of a hot tub at 60 miles an hour, how much do you think that will cost? We are the source that pays to maintain, improve and even make new roads. We can refuse an increase, or we can approve a small one. Either way, we will get exactly what we are willing to pay for.

Call us with your thoughts.

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

POV | Point of View as a social science experiment

Jan 10, 2019 Updated Jan 10, 2019

Point of View is like a social science experiment. If I do an editorial that might criticize our president, I hear from people who claim I'm wrong, liberal, and a reflection of a biased news organization.

If I do an editorial supporting him in any way, people tell me I'm wrong, Fox-centric, and a reflection of a biased news organization.

If I support anything done by a Democrat, people scream I'm just part of the liberal media, and if I criticize a Democrat, well, I'm nothing but a right wing radical.

For the record, I'm probably none of those things, or all of them, and I have been for more than 20 years of doing editorials. Oh, I almost forgot. Whatever my position, when people disagree with me, they all remind me that they aren't ever going to watch WDRB again!

It almost makes me wonder how we became the number one news organization in Kentucky, but that's not the point.

I criticize and support many people – presidents, senators and Congress people of both parties - in editorials, but editorials are not journalism. They are opinion. In this case, my opinion.

And if you think about it, I've never asked you to agree with me. If you do, great. If I enrage you, perfect!

Either way, we got a conversation started and I consider that our mutual success.

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

POV | Thanks to Federal workers who are showing up anyway

Jan 17, 2019 Updated Jan 17, 2019

This government shutdown is now the longest in history. To some in Washington, it's just another political battle. It's a high stakes game of chicken.

To 800,000 federal employees, this is a real-world problem and it's getting more real every day. Many live paycheck to paycheck and to miss a few puts their credit ratings at risk. Food, house and car payments - nothing can be taken for granted.

That's why I think it is remarkable that so many TSA agents and air traffic controllers are still showing up for work. They are the grownups in the room. They are the ones who know that this is so much more than a political game of wills. It is literally life and death and the aviation system depends on them being there.

I wonder if our politicians have thought about what would happen if no one could travel by air. What effect would that have on our economy? I also wonder how many of us would show up to do a job we weren't getting paid for.

Probably not many.

So while the politicians are posturing, something tragic could happen and, of course if it does, they will blame each other. But most of the air traffic controllers and TSA agents are showing up, unpaid at this point, and unwilling to risk our safety.

That's what makes this group of individuals so special. Thank you!

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

MCCONNELL OPINION | Democrats Refuse to Address Southern Border Crisis

Jan 17, 2019 Updated Jan 17, 2019

By U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

There is a humanitarian and security crisis at our nation's southern border. Our country is threatened by the inflow of drugs and criminal aliens. Career border security experts continue to express strong support for physical barriers.

The simple truth is these walls and fences work. In fact, the Trump administration reports that in four border sectors where physical barriers were recently built or upgraded, illegal traffic dropped by more than 90%.

The statistics show and the experts agree that we need increased resources to protect our borders. But for some reason, Washington Democrats are rejecting these facts. Instead, they're prolonging this partial government shutdown and leaving hundreds of thousands of federal workers to miss paychecks.

Adding to the absurdity is Democrats' own history with this issue. In 2006, then-Senator Obama joined with then-Senator Clinton, Senator Schumer, and several other well-known Democrats when they all voted to authorize about 700 miles of physical barriers under the "Secure Fence Act." That's not the last time Democrats have supported walls. In fact, more than 80% of Senate Democrats voted for \$1.5 billion dollars for border barriers just last year.

Unfortunately, in the Democrats' never-ending march to the left, they're now abandoning long-held, bipartisan principles that most Americans support, like the need protect our country's borders. New Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi even recently described a barrier as "an immorality" and decided that opposing President Trump comes before the security of our borders.

"An immorality" to protect our sovereign nation's borders from drug smuggling and human trafficking? She couldn't be more wrong.

The reality is, the Trump administration requested funding for the same kinds of physical barriers that the Obama administration was proud to build: Fencing with spaced slats that allow visibility, made with reinforced steel. Furthermore, they're the same kinds of barriers that Customs and Border Protection experts have told us actually produce real results.

You can call them walls. You can call them fences. You can call them steel slats. What they really are is effective.

During the Obama administration, everyone supported a wall. Now, during the Trump administration, the Democrats decry the concept of any physical wall on the southern border as "an immorality."

Speaker Pelosi's argument becomes even more unpersuasive when you consider the cost of the president's border security proposal. Democrats would rather continue this partial government shutdown than agree to an additional investment of approximately one-tenth of one percent of federal spending.

Just like many Kentuckians, I can't think of a credible reason for the Democrats' massive flip-flop on the need for border security. Instead, we're left to believe that the Democrats are operating purely on political spite directed at President Trump. Why else would they rather have a partial government shutdown drag on for weeks than continue to support border security? Why else would they plug their ears and refuse to listen to the experts on the ground?

I agree with former-President Obama's own Border Patrol chief, who stated recently, "I cannot think of a legitimate argument why anyone would not support the wall as part of the multilayered border security issue."

Democrats are trying to convince the country that the federal government simply cannot reopen. They want you to believe they cannot negotiate with the president and the sky would come crashing down if we invest one one-thousandth of federal spending in proven border security solutions. And, they'd like you to forget that their own party used to support these same barriers.

Let's call this what it is. It's a partisan flip-flop that is not based in principle or in evidence, but solely in the fact that President Trump is in the White House.

Along with my Republican colleagues, I am proud to support the president's commonsense request. The experts on the ground, who actually risk their own safety to secure our nation, support it. In 2006, then-Senators Obama and Clinton and the current Senate Democratic Leader supported it.

Border security still matters, and American families still deserve safety. Speaker Pelosi's posturing isn't how you make serious policy, and her allies' partisan tantrums are no way to govern.

The Democrats need to get serious about their responsibilities, seek treatment for their brand-new partisan allergy to border security, sit down with the president, and negotiate a solution that works for everyone. That is the only way to move the country forward.

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Call us with your thoughts.

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

POV | Mayor's Pension Crisis

Feb 19, 2019

We are told by Mayor Fischer that there is a pension shortfall of \$65 million that we need to make up for. It's not a sudden emergency - we've all seen this coming for many years. He suggests we could either slash critical services, or we could significantly raise taxes. Isn't that a fine choice? Either way, good, tax-paying citizens who did nothing wrong are going to get penalized.

The mayor proposes tripling the tax on insurance policies to pay for this, which I believe will just discourage more poor people from being properly insured, while everyone else will have to disproportionately make up the shortfall. I'm torn because I believe the people who came to work for the government did so for less than market value knowing that the pension would take care of them in the end. They deserve what was promised.

But I am furious with those state and local officials who kept allowing the pensions to go up without any idea how we would pay for it, and who just pushed the obligation on to the next generation. We should all be upset with the elected politicians who stupidly traded short-term contracts for a long-term crisis.

I'd be a lousy farm boy, but even I knew this chicken would come home to roost.

What are your thoughts? Call and tell us.

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

POV | The actor who cried wolf

Feb 21, 2019

Once upon a time there was a C-list actor. He was on a big show, but honestly, few people knew his name. To draw more attention to himself, he claimed he was attacked, presumably by a couple white guys who, even worse, were Donald Trump supporters. They supposedly knocked him around a little, put a noose around his neck, and poured bleach on him.

People were sickened by the attack on him. But his story quickly started to fall apart. He went on TV to tell us how he was victimized, not just by the two muggers, but by those who questioned his integrity. Shame on us, right?

It turns out he hired two guys he worked with, both black by the way, to gently mug him. Now he has been arrested and charged with making the whole story up.

I don't care about fines or jail time. We have enough criminals in jail. We don't need to add someone else for being stupid. He should be required to repay the police for all the resources they wasted trying to help him though.

The bigger issue is that we have way too much real racism and anti-gay sentiment and hate, and this guy manufactured fake hate just to give his career a little boost.

Perhaps we should forgive him someday for crying wolf, but let's not forget that racism comes in many forms.

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

POV | Today's Army offers great opportunities

Feb 28, 2019

The United States has the most powerful armed forces the world has ever seen. It is comforting to know that we are protected by such power. But the All-Volunteer Army we have today is somewhat at risk. The problem is, they can't recruit enough people.

I heard some interesting stats the other day that 40% of our Army comes from five states: Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California. Even if all of America's youth wanted to join, only 29% of them qualify for the Army. That's because they fall short in the scholastic test, they have moral, legal or medical issues, or they simply aren't physically fit enough.

The good news is, if you are qualified, the Army has 150 different types of jobs available. The pay and benefits are good with a \$40,000 signing bonus and 401k retirement plans. You can get your education paid for and graduate debt free. And the Army has become a great place for women to serve. I heard stories from women who described themselves as "ordinary" in civilian life but after joining the Army became extraordinary women. What they have made of themselves is beyond impressive.

Talk to an Army recruiter. It can't hurt a bit to find out what is available to you. You might be surprised at what you'll learn, and even more at what you can become.

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

McCONNELL | Some Democrats want to bring Venezuela-style socialism to the US

Mar 4, 2019

By: Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator for Kentucky

I never thought we'd have to debate the dangers of socialism in America.

But as we watch the horrors in Venezuela, some members of Congress are trying to bring the same socialism into our neighborhoods.

Prominent Democrats -- even those running for President -- are embracing this madness.

With catchy names like the Democrats' Green New Deal, they want to control what car you drive, what kind of house you live in, and more.

And you'll be on the hook for the price tag: A whopping \$93 trillion over a decade

Last week, Democrats introduced their latest bad idea: a radical, \$32 trillion government takeover of health care they call "Medicare for All."

It's more like "Medicare for None."

Their scheme would kick more than 170 million Americans off their current plan by making it unlawful for employers to offer health coverage.

It would destroy Medicare -- a program tens of millions of seniors paid into throughout their working lives.

Instead, Democrats would create a new fund, paid by higher costs on middle-class families. And, they'd throw out the longstanding, bipartisan protection that prohibits using tax dollars to pay for abortions.

Every page is a socialist horror show, and Kentuckians want none of it.

America is the land of freedom, not socialism. And we're going to keep it that way.

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

GUEST POV | Councilman suggests ways to avoid Mayor's new tax increase

Mar 11, 2019

\$65 Million per year in new taxes is what Mayor Fischer is asking you to pay to make up for a \$25 million budget problem.

Rather than having this conversation during an election year, Mayor Fischer waited until the final weeks to propose a tripling of insurance taxes as the only way our city can escape utter doom.

The Mayor is using hundreds of Metro Employees, non-profit groups as well as those doing business with Metro to spread fear and show support for his tax.

Luckily, the people of Louisville are seeing through this and continue to voice their strong opposition. Savings can be found. Here are a few ideas that will save more than \$10 million a year in taxes:

Eliminate raises for Metro Employees for one year.

Start a wellness program to reduce health care increases, ask employees to pay a portion of increased health care.

Stop borrowing money to give away for non-essential projects, stop building more bike lanes and funding programs such as the interrupters which have had questionable reporting and results.

These along with many other ideas will save enough money to prevent a forever tax on every Louisville Family.

Call the Mayor at 574-2003 and Metro Council at 574-1100 and tell them to find savings, not higher taxes.

I'm Councilman Scott Reed and that's my Point of View.

GUEST POV | Louisville needs new revenue to thrive

Mar 6, 2019

By Mayor Greg Fischer

Over the last eight years, Louisville has built incredible momentum: 80,000 new jobs, 2,700 businesses, \$13 billion invested. Among peer cities, we have the fourth lowest ratio of city employees to population. We run a lean government, and still are poised to become America's next breakout city.

Now, we've been hit by a large, increasing pension bill from the state, which is the main factor in a \$65 million budget hole over the next four years.

Do we pay this bill by drastically cutting city services, closing libraries and firehouses, and shrinking our police force? By making cuts impacting our most vulnerable? Cuts that will slow our momentum? Or, do we deal with this now to keep growing our city?

The difficult reality is, the best way to meet this challenge and keep our momentum is to raise revenue. That's why I've proposed to Metro Council that we invest in our city and our future through a gradual increase in insurance premium tax. It would be the first tax increase in decades.

Supporting this approach is not easy, but it's necessary.

Because the question is, what kind of city do we want to be? To ensure a city that attracts global talent, a city where everyone thrives, we must invest in our people and neighborhoods, and move forward together. If you agree, please urge Council to vote for new revenue.

I'm Mayor Greg Fischer and that's my point of view.

POV | Frankfort's new 'dumbest idea'

Mar 12, 2019

On March 1, the Kentucky Legislature passed a bill that allows people to carry a concealed firearm without a permit, but get this: You will not be required to have any gun safety training or any verification of gun competence. None. And Monday, Gov. Bevin signed it into law.

A logical, sane person might think that is just irresponsible legislation.

But who are we to second guess the Kentucky legislature or our governor? In fact, maybe the very concept of training is overrated.

Why should anyone have to take lessons to learn how to operate a 4,000-pound car at 70 miles per hour? Just give them a license.

Why should someone have to incur eight inconvenient years in college and all that expense to be a doctor? Let's pass a law that lets them be brain surgeons right out of high school.

Why should anyone have to take all those silly pilot lessons? Just let me into that cockpit. Anybody up for a ride?

This isn't about gun rights. That's already a well-established right. This isn't about the right to carry concealed weapons. This is about the most common of common sense. To let people carry guns without some sort of safety training or even verification of competence is one of the dumbest things I've ever heard come out of Frankfort.

What do you think about this? Call us.

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

GUEST POV | Dealing with the pension crisis

By Bill Hollander
Louisville Metro Council

You've probably heard about the huge new pension bill Louisville must pay.

This \$60 million burden has nothing to do with decisions made in Louisville – we've always paid our pension bills and balanced our budgets. In reality, this new bill is the result of bad pension decisions in Frankfort.

The Mayor argues that cutting city services to cover these new pension costs will stop Louisville's momentum and proposes paying this entire bill through increased taxes.

On the other side, some folks are saying there are easy cuts to be made and we don't need any new revenue. But none of those people have listed specific cuts that would come close to covering the pension bill we face.

There's simply no room in the budget to address all of the pension increase without major cuts impacting frontline staff and service.

On Thursday, the budget committee approved a compromise. Our balanced approach will lessen the reductions in services but still require us to cut over \$30 Million, cuts that will be felt in every neighborhood and by every resident. It has a much smaller tax increase than originally proposed, with every dollar dedicated solely to covering increased pension costs.

It's time to come together and enact a balanced, responsible approach to deal with the pension mess Frankfort has handed us.

I'm Councilman Bill Hollander. And that's my Point of View.

POV | The Mueller Report: A waste of time and money

After almost two full years and \$25 million taxpayer dollars, the Mueller Report is finally in. It concluded Russia did try to influence the election, which we already knew, but that President Trump and his campaign did not collude with the Russians.

This is almost heartbreaking news to many democrats, not to mention media folks in New York and Washington. It is clearly not what they wanted. But as an American first, I'm glad that our president was not involved in what the media and democrats had hoped he was. I'm delighted the United States doesn't have to deal with that issue any more.

Unfortunately, political critics will look elsewhere for other ways to bring the president down. They are hopeful there are hidden gems in the Mueller report that they can use against him. They're now looking to Federal prosecutors in New York to try to get him on campaign finance law violations for directing hush money to two women with whom he allegedly had affairs.

Donald Trump often gets in his own way, but I do not wish for him, or any president of either party to be guilty of what he was accused. As bad as that would be for him, it would be worse for the United States.

I tend to agree with Rand Paul's take on the Mueller Report: What a colossal waste of time and money!

Call us at 502-588-4233 and Give us your opinion.

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

EDUCATION

GUEST POV | UK's LEADS program raising millions for scholarships

Last year, more than 7,000 students earned degrees from the University of Kentucky. What if that number was 10,000? What if we could nearly double the number of engineering graduates? How would that stimulate economic growth?

Louisville has an ambitious but vital goal: at least 40,000 more residents with bachelor's degrees. We are your partner.

A college degree is the crucial credential to compete for 21st century jobs.

For many students, their biggest obstacle is financial need.

At the University of Kentucky, we are attacking this challenge through UK LEADS (or Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success). Our partners at the University of Louisville are also seeking innovative approaches.

In Louisville, there is almost \$9 million in unmet financial need among our students. Across the state, it's about \$60 million.

UK LEADS targets grants and scholarships to eliminate need. Through our Kentucky Can campaign, we are raising some \$300 million for scholarships.

More graduates ... more jobs for Kentucky.

That is what it means to do more .. to be more ... for Kentucky.

It's what Kentucky Can do.

I'm Eli Capilouto and that's my point of view.

GUEST POV | Support scholarship tax credits to foster school choice

Jan 28, 2019

By: Sarah Durand

Government affairs director and digital marketing strategist for the Bluegrass Institute

Audit after audit of JCPS has shown that the achievement gap between white and minority students is growing. Poor minority students here and across Kentucky are vastly underperforming compared to their white classmates and disproportionately find themselves in the lowest-performing public schools.

Children from low-and-middle-income homes should have the same opportunities for academic success as their peers from wealthier families. Your child's opportunities should not be limited because of your income.

If our elected officials in Frankfort would support scholarship tax credits, we could give more students a greater chance at success.

Scholarship tax credit policies use private -- not public -- money to increase parental choice. These programs allow businesses or individuals to receive a tax credit against donations made to scholarship programs that give lower income families the means to send their children to the same private schools that the wealthy enjoy.

Giving parents -- even poor or dysfunctional ones -- the power of choosing where their children attend school produces amazing results. On average, student proficiency in math increases from 28-to-81 percent and reading proficiency skyrockets from 40-to-96 percent after just three years in a scholarship program.

Please call your legislators today and ask them to support scholarship tax credits, or visit bipps.org.

I'm Sarah Durand and that's my Point of View.

POV | Let's not use children as pawns

Mar 7, 2019

Of all the teachers I had from kindergarten through high school, I felt every teacher cared about us very much. Like most of you, I am a big supporter of teachers. My wife's family all are teachers.

Being a good teacher isn't easy, but it has to start by being there for the kids and not abandoning them for an impromptu political rally. I understand that when you're trying to cause or prevent change you must use your leverage, but almost everyone agrees using children as the leverage has usually been near the top of the list of what not to do.

The "sick out" Wednesday and Thursday is beyond troublesome. Teachers need the community's support, but pulling stunts like that erodes support quickly. It leaves employers shorthanded as tens of thousands of parents either stay home and lose a day's pay, or scramble to find and pay for daycare. That's a bad way to gain support. It was such a selfish, corrosive action that even the teacher's own union wanted no part of it.

The unintended lessons the sick out is teaching kids is that lying about being sick, truancy, and a situational work ethic is OK.

We simply can't let children be used as pawns, and if another sick out happens JCPS and other school districts should take strong disciplinary action with full support from the teacher's unions.

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

CULTURE

POV | The unintended consequences of political correctness

Jan 22, 2019 Updated 15 hrs ago

Our new world of ultra-political correctness has some benefits. The purpose, of course, is to stop having fun at other people's expense. It is to stop using language that marginalizes someone or reinforces stereotypes.

This is noble and good and we should strive for that. It is to treat people the way we would like to be treated in every way, except this political correctness movement does not include forgiveness.

For example, no one can make a mistake anymore. If they stumble over a word and a sound comes out that offends someone, the only solution is to fire them. We don't judge them on the body of their life's work or behavior, but on a "gotcha" moment that makes us feel superior for a minute.

If someone said or did something that was considered acceptable in a different time, but is deemed offensive today, the PC Police demand the death sentence for their career or legacy.

Where will we find good people who will run for political office, or write edgy literature, or who will teach our young people critical thinking if they are to be held to this unattainable standard of human perfection? In their place we will find mediocre milquetoasts who have never failed because they have never risked anything.

Without some safety net of forgiveness, I'm not sure we will wind up with the better world we seek.

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

POV | What Happens When Someone Is Offended?

Jan 29, 2019 Updated 4 hrs ago

I'm almost done with the topic of how easily people are offended these days, but not quite. Sometimes things said or done are offensive. Usually they are not. These things that allegedly offend are usually nothing more than manufactured drama intended to call attention to an underappreciated, self-serving little twerp.

If someone close to you offends you, we never hear about it, right? You work it out in private, as you should. But with the ones we hear about, in most cases, these folks don't have any relationship to the person who offended them, so it's easy to call for severe punishments!

Suppose somebody I don't know says something that really does offend me, you know what happens? Nothing. I don't bleed, I don't get shingles, I don't even have to take a pill. I'm serious – nothing happens. And since nothing happened, it seems kind of silly for me to overreact and do something unforgiving like call for a boycott or for someone to be fired, unless I'm trying to draw attention to how wonderful and sensitive I am.

Most of what offends us is not worth our attention anyway. If you're easily offended, be offended in private, if you must, but stop involving the rest of us, because your neediness and thin skin has become a little offensive.

What are your thoughts? Call and let us know.

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

POV | Garbage in, garbage out

Feb 14, 2019

I have been wondering lately, how did we twist our thinking so far out of shape? We have replaced our optimism and our can-do attitude with pessimism and negativity.

Within minutes after the Academy Award nominees were announced, there were lists of who got snubbed and weren't nominated instead of giving the ones who were nominated a minute to enjoy their success. So many people talked about how boring the Super Bowl instead of celebrating two great defenses that played brilliantly on the biggest stage.

USA Today likes to let us know how the Twitter universe is reacting to this or that. I'll tell you. It's negative. It's predominately negative regardless of the topic. That's why I stopped looking at how Twitter reacts to anything.

If you constantly fill your head with negative thoughts, you will eventually produce negative results. Look at history. We didn't win World War II with negativism. We didn't put men on the moon with negative attitudes. And I promise you, we don't lead the world in medicine and science because of the naysayers on Twitter.

This doesn't mean we turn a blind eye to the problems in the world, but we need to try harder to celebrate big moments and burn less energy on creating unnecessary drama. It's true with computers and it's true with people: garbage in, garbage out.

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

POV | WDRB Owes a Lot to John Dorkin

Mar 5, 2019

Last Friday, after a lengthy illness, we lost a man who laid the foundation for what WDRB is today. John Dorkin, was the WDRB general manager for 14 years and my predecessor.

If you're not in our business, you may not know much about John Dorkin, so let me tell you what he did back in the 80's and 90's. John was the guy who married WDRB with the then new Fox television network in 1986. This gave WDRB the identity of Fox 41, which was huge for the station at the time.

In 1990, he lured some big talent away from other stations when he launched Fox News at 10. People like Laretta Harris, Jim Mitchell, Tammy Garrison and Gary Montgomery all came to be part of this new experiment. Later when he expanded news to seven days, Bill Francis and Susan Sweeney joined us. When he started Fox in the Morning in 1998, Stew Oleson and Elizabeth Woolsey came aboard. None of those people were beginners. He hired pros.

John had a great relationship with the University of Louisville and he secured broadcast rights to football and basketball for many years. He engineered the acquisition of our sister station, channel 58, which was WFTE, now WBKI.

For whatever WDRB Media has become today, we owe so much of that to the vision of John Dorkin. He had giant ideas.

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

POV | WDRB is off DIRECTV and AT&T U-verse

Mar 15, 2019

On Friday morning, DIRECTV and AT&T U-verse took WDRB and WBKI off of their system.

I know they have said we pulled our stations from them, but that just isn't true. Why would we do that? That just doesn't make sense.

We are negotiating with them for the fee they will pay to be able to put WDRB Media on their system. These negotiations are typically routine and take place between every large TV station and every cable system in the country. All of WDRB and WBKI's agreements are completed for the next three years - all of them, except for DirecTV and U-verse.

We have never asked any cable or satellite system to pay us the most even though we may be the biggest station in Kentucky. All we've asked is for a fair deal.

Thursday night we were told essentially that if we didn't take DIRECTV's offer, which is below fair market value, we were coming off their system. And you know the rest.

If you need our weather team for severe weather like we had this week, if you enjoy our sports team for complete coverage of the tournaments, if you're deaf or hard of hearing and depend on our closed captioned news, please call DirecTV or U-Verse and demand that they negotiate fairly.

Their numbers are below:

DIRECTV: (800) 531-5000

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

PUBLIC
HEALTH &
SAFETY

GUEST POV | Say 'Yes' to organ donation

Feb 15, 2019 Updated Feb 15, 2019

Let's talk about helping and sharing, which is the right thing to do. When you were a kid and other kids wanted your toy, your mom would tell you to play with it and then share. You did it. Because it was the right thing to do.

As we get older, sharing is still important. We volunteer our time. We cut the grass of our grandparents. We help a neighbor who is sick. We donate to charities. And once we've reached the end of our lives, the giving can continue. That's what I'm here to talk about. Organ and tissue donation is the right thing to do.

You've probably heard, "No one will want my organs, I have medical issues like diabetes or cancer." Not true, everyone is welcome to join the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry. Or "I'm too old to donate." Again, not true. The oldest organ donor in Kentucky was 84. She saved 3 lives.

We must be willing to give and share. When it's time to get your driver's license renewed at your Circuit Court Clerk's office, please say YES to organ donation. - Or register on our website at REGISTERME.ORG. Helping others and sharing the gift of life: it's the right thing to do.

This is David Nicholson and That's My Point of View.

POV | Homelessness and addressing the local crisis

Jan 3, 2019

As we begin a new year, we have every reason to look forward with hope, optimism and resolutions. But as our eyes sparkle with what could be this year, right there in our peripheral vision is an issue we cannot escape - the homelessness in our community. We all see the problem, but few see a solution. Homelessness is a nationwide issue that can only be addressed on a local level.

No one "chooses" to be homeless. No one says "I want to live under a viaduct when I grow up" or "I'd like to have a severe mental health issue," or "I'd like to have a drug addiction." These are people impacted by trauma, hopelessness and extreme poverty. Sadly, not all we do is really as helpful as we hope.

It may make you feel good for a minute, to drop a bunch of blankets and pillows off under an overpass, but don't. Honestly, it becomes clutter, gets collected and is thrown away. Instead, take your donations to the Coalition for the Homeless, Wayside Mission, or other local providers. Let them distribute it properly. And remember that panhandling is not the same as homelessness. If you are approached for a handout, don't give money.

We may want to help, but we need to be smart about how we help so we can have the best possible impact.

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

COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POV | Darts and Laurels

Time for some Darts and Laurels.

A laurel goes to U of L Women's basketball coach Jeff Walz. Not because he's had one of the most successful programs in the country for the past 10 years, and not because he's a good guy, which he is. No, this laurel is because, even in his pre-game pep talks he reminds his team that they're playing for the fans. He encourages the players to put on a good show for the fans, give 'em something to cheer about, get them to want to come back. He is one of the most fan-focused coaches I've ever seen. When so many coaches take fan attendance for granted, how refreshing is Jeff Walz?

But a dart goes to— well never mind. I'm not even going to mention how the downtown streets are just destroyed, how hostile they are to out of town guests, how incredibly difficult it is to even get around downtown these days. This is so obvious, I don't think I'll even mention it.

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

SPORTS

POV | Darts and Laurels

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