

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my appreciation for the law enforcement in Rockcastle County and surrounding counties and the Drug Enforcement Agency.

It seems as if all we've read lately are the down grades of people against our law enforcement. Apparently, these people have no appreciation none what-so-ever for the men and women that lay their lives on the line, daily, to protect and serve. And, yes, protect and serve sometimes means search you, against "wrongfully accused."

Anyway, if everyone has been keeping up with the latest news. Our, so called, episode of stupid, law enforcement just took down one of the biggest drug operations in the area. Are there any letters of appreciation for this? Where is our appreciation now? Where was our appreciation last year when the same thing happened to one of our other family drug operations? Whether you believe it or not, a lot of our children's lives were saved by this outstanding performance by our law enforcement.

If you support our law enforcement and appreciate the good job they've done lately, let them know. Drop them a few lines to say thank you instead of down grading their job.

Oh, and Mrs. Bombard, a barbecue sounds nice. Especially to celebrate the most recent drug round up, but if I may speak for most of the officers around here, our state barbecues will most definitely exclude you. But, thanks anyway.

Sincerely,

Carrie Adams,

proud wife of officer, Barry L. Adams, Mt. Vernon, KY.

P.S. Anyone that lives inside the city limits should feel lucky that our officers even show up to work anymore. After all, they could go to some of our local fast food places or gas stations and make more money.

Dear Editor,

The Project Graduation Committee

tee would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their contributions to a great cause. We always appreciate the supporting community gives toward Project Graduation.

We are making great plans for the Class of 2000 and would like to ask everyone to join us in the fund.

If you would like to make a donation please contact Myrna Chastain at 256-2125 or Rockcastle County High School 256-4816.

Those who have donated are Town & Country Chevron, Russell & Norma Houk, Jeffery T. Burdette, Mt. Vernon Signal, James & Dee Ann Miller, Mary Mathis, Lornie & Teresa Vanzant, Mt. Vernon Scrap, Reese's One Stop, Parsons Gas, Wm. F. Stewart, Steven Connelly, Broadhead Lawn's Club, R&J Printing, Jenny Sweet, Napa Auto Parts, David's Tire Center, Thompson's Mobile Home, Buzz Carlotis, Broadhead Baptist Church, Lina Weinewuth, Kevin Fletcher Signs, R&J Gas Mart, Chuck Gray, Radio Shack, Debra Lambert, Margaret Offutt, Roger Renner, Har Limited, Willis Coffey and Sondra Mullins.

The Project Graduation Committee

Dear Editor,

Reasons why we, the people, tolerate an unfair Justice system in Rockcastle County.

- 1) Voters are unaware of the existing problems and bias with some of our elected officials.
- 2) Voters are not aware that there is an avenue to correct these problems.
- 3) Voters are frustrated at the system due to that it has been in place for some time.
- 4) Maybe there is a greater power or motivator in control of some of our elected officials.
- 5) Citizens don't realize their vote carries more power than their think.
- 6) No one running for office that voters want to vote for.
- 7) When is the next election?

Kevin Taylor
Broddhead, KY



The District Wide Spelling Bee was held last Wednesday with RCMS student Anna Guilloff the victor. Participants are pictured above, from left: Guilloff, MVES student Heather Spires, RES student Jill Owen and Broddhead student Kim Morrow.

Fairview News

By Mrs. Hubert Chastain

A happy good morning to all you readers.

We've had some beautiful weather recently and thank God for it.

Worship services were well attended at Fairview over the weekend. Our fill-in ministers were, Maynard Head of Mt. Vernon, Sunday morning and Bro. John Ramsey, Sunday night. We still are seeking a pastor. We enjoyed the sermons we heard from the two ministers on Sunday and thank God for them.

My sister, Ruth Gaffill of Berea, is still hospitalized in Lexington, but improving daily. My sister, Myrtle Wilson has been such a blessing to us. She is always ready and willing to help when ever she is needed or called upon. I'm so thankful both of my sisters live close, they lived away for many years. "I love them, dearly."

Congratulations to Jewell Davidson on the beautiful poem she wrote about her brother, Kenny Alexander. And also to my sister, Myrtle Wilson's poem about our mother, Mrs. Liddie Rappert that was published in the Signal recently.

Mrs. Ardilla Timch and daughter, Becky Wright, of Franklin, Ohio were guests of Ardilla's mother, Mrs. Edith

Mullins a few days last week.

Mr. Bert Croucher of Berea is improving nicely from an illness of several weeks. Thank the good Lord. Tip Reppert visited at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Edith Mullins on Saturday. Tip is my brother and I'm so proud of him for his love and concern for the sick and shut-ins.

Visiting in our home recently have been all five of our children Wayne, Junior, Janet, Joyce and Darlene and some of their family members.

Also my niece and her husband, Tim and Phyllis Snyder of Niles, Michigan visited. We always enjoy company.

Guests of Mrs. Hallie Alexander recently have been Mrs. Loran Ward of Fairborn, Ohio, Mrs. Mildred Phillips, Odessa Himes, Sylvia Gabbard and Mrs. Sherry Dooley and daughter, all of Berea.

Mrs. Ellen Johnson and Lois Stanley of Berea, attended worship services at Fairview on Sunday night. We enjoyed having them.

Please attend Sunday school and church every time you can. And let's all pray for our loved ones and friends who are sick. May God bless them to be well soon. May God bless you all in His prayer.

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Is There Anyone Left To Tell

Jokes about? Telling jokes must be as old as talking. The first cave man (or woman) probably said to his friends, "Did you hear the one about the woolly mammoth who...?"

Jokes have often been made at the expense of other groups. Somewhere back in history someone probably told Roman jokes: "How many Romans does it take to change a candle?" And there were almost certainly Hebrew jokes, told by the occupants of the Promised Land who had been unceremoniously booted from their homes.

Today there is a new sensitivity to the rights and feelings of minorities. Several prominent persons have gotten in trouble for telling jokes that made fun of minority groups. Jokes told at the expense of others can be very cruel.

"Did you hear the one about the fat lady who...?" Jokes about personal body characteristics often draw a big laugh. I wonder how overweight people feel about these. Many cannot help being overweight, either because of genetics, physical problems or psychological distress. All of us have our tender spots. It's just that overweight is so easily seen and made fun of.

In the early 1960's the pastor of my church told a racist joke from the pulpit. I remember distinctly that day and what he said. It was not a good thing to do, and the very next Sunday he apologized to the congregation for doing so. Someone must have had a talk with him.

Jokes about ethnic and minority groups are on very shaky ground. These make fun of groups that are

already being discriminated against by society. The jokes imply that all members of that group share the same quality, whether it is laziness, greed or stupidity. Stereotyping is unfair and demeaning to any group.

What about occupational jokes? There are some great stories about engineers, preachers, doctors, plumbers, nurses, etc. These are less likely to offend than the ethnic jokes, because occupation is not personal as race or waist size. Actually the best jokes about lawyers come from lawyers, and the best ones about plumbers come from plumbers. For instance, how many counselors does it take to change a light bulb? One, but the bulb has to want to change. (Think about it.)

Jokes about one sex or the other do not do much for mutual understanding. These seem to pick on the opposite sex. Therefore even though I know some PMS jokes (told to me by my wife), I will not tell them here.

Personal can be painful, and joking or teasing can be very cruel. The less personal the joke, the more likely that it will be taken in the spirit of fun. The best way to insure no hard feelings is to tell the jokes about yourself or a group to which you belong. Laughing at yourself or your group does not offend others (unless some in your group cannot take a joke).

Since I am a country music fan, I can tell one about my group. How many country music fans does it take to change a light bulb? Four: one to change the bulb, one to write a sad song about it, and two to get in a fight in the parking lot over it. See you next week.

Local storyteller featured at festival

Local storyteller, Beverly Octavia Sexton, was featured teller at the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee Storyteller Festival February 18 and 19. The Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events hosted a Haunted Trail event where trolley riders were treated to a brief stop at a local graveyard or deserted barn where the storyteller boarded the trolley and told "Haint" stories. Beverly, or "Octavia" as the audience knows her, has also been selected to be included in the Kentucky Arts Council roster of artists in Residence. The A.I.R. is sponsored by the Council and helps a school bring an artist such as Octavia into the classrooms for educational programs. A residency may last from two weeks to nine months. Octavia is already scheduled to do three residencies in Breathitt County for elementary and high schools this fall. Octavia is also listed in the Kentucky Arts Council Performing Arts Directory, which offers a subsidy to subsidize single performances for a non-profit organization. Only a few artists are eligible to be included in either of the KAC directories and must meet strict artistic and professional guidelines.

Octavia admits that storytelling comes easily for her because she grew up hearing stories from her grandparents, Isaac and Cloe Bowman and her mother, Ollie Carter. "Being able to teach about our local culture and heritage with the stories is a joy," says Octavia. "So many people in Appalachia are ashamed of their heritage, but we should be proud of who we are and where we come from. Many people in the world today, don't

have any roots. We are unique in that we still live in communities where Mammaw, Pappaw and other kinfolk live just down the road. We still have strong families and a sense of being a part of not only a family, but of the land. I can look around the hills and know that generations of my people have lived and died on this land. That is a feeling that you can't describe to people, but you can share it through the images woven through a good story. I love sharing our heritage with others, and I am proud to say I am from Rockcastle County."



Beverly Sexton

Rodefer named Kentucky Colonel & Outstanding Citizen

Once again, we the residents of Rockcastle County have cause to rejoice and celebrate. One of our own has been commissioned a Kentucky Colonel and an Outstanding Citizen. This community's caring and fostering personality has taken a former rebel and spawned a productive and responsible citizen.

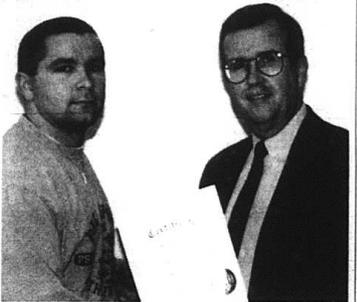
Mr. Conley Rodefer's life could at one time be defined as reckless and without notice for consequences. However, that life exploded into an unexpected and unwelcomed adventure.

Mr. Rodefer is quadraplegic. Everyday, he faces new challenges, adversities and frustrations. A voice beckoning from a wheelchair is most often unheard, but through diligence and determination, fighting anger and pity; he demanded recognition. Many

heard that voice and lended assistance.

Today, Mr. Rodefer is an integral part of the population at a local center, which he attends. He offers encouragement to those less fortunate, prompts an elderly gentleman, whom he's befriended, to eat lunch and mediates games so the mentally able do not "out class" the mentally challenged. These are but a few examples. Mr. Rodefer has learned and earned respect. He commands justice and fairness, not only for himself, but also for his community. And when his community's voice may go unheard, he speaks forthright on that community's behalf.

We applaud Conley's fortitude, continue to wish him much success, and we are happy to address our former rebel as Colonel Conley Rodefer.



The Cumberland College Office of Student Services announces that the following Mt. Vernon students recently completed a 10-session Leadership seminar. In the top photo, David L. King, son of David King and Karen King of Mt. Vernon; in the middle photo, Dusty McClure, son of Barry and Janet McClure of Mt. Vernon and in the bottom photo, Wendy Himes, daughter of Randall and Angela Himes of Mt. Vernon. Upon completion of the course, the students were presented with certificates by Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Michael Colegrove. The seminar is part of a four-year leadership project at Cumberland College. Its purpose is to teach students how leadership is effectively exercised for the enhancement of personal skills. The seminar is designed to strengthen leadership skills, analyze characteristics of good leadership and the assessment of leadership style and potential.

In & Around Mt. Vernon

By Vallie Burton

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Mink of London visited his sister, Patricia Holland recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Chafic Zenni and daughters of Cincinnati, Ohio, visited his mother, Shirley Burton last weekend.

Mattie Newton of Somerset, Danny Petrey of Science Hill, Mrs. Sheila Zenni and daughters of Cincinnati, Ohio and Shirley Burton visited Vallie Burton last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Burton were in London last Thursday.

Deepest sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones recently.

David Holland of Colorado is visiting his mother, Patricia Holland.

Patricia Holland celebrated her birthday February 24th. We wish her many returns of the day.

Mattie Newton, Danny Petrey and Vallie Burton visited David at the Shelbyville Hospital on Tuesday.

Mrs. Darlene Kirby and Mrs. Arhbe Kirby were in Lexington on Monday to consult Ms. Arhbe's doctor.

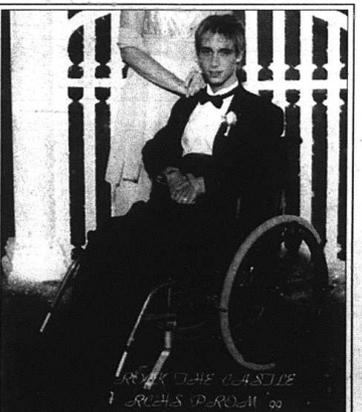
Mrs. Shirley McClure and Ms. Elsie Shivel were in Berea on Friday. John David Hanley celebrated his third birthday, February 20th. We wish him many returns of the day.

Thursday night supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Eaton II were Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Mink of London, David Eaton of Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Culter, Angie Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Eaton III and children, Allen Eaton and Patricia Holland.

Mrs. Dorothy Ridout of Henderson visited her mother, Lillian Anglin and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Anglin during the weekend.

Milt Robinson, brother of Mrs. Ora York, has returned home from the Marymount Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rigby are the proud parents of a baby boy born February 3rd.



Conley Rodefer was named a Kentucky Colonel and Outstanding Citizen.

New e-mail address

The Mt. Vernon Signal can now be reached via the Internet. Send us your news, classifieds, changes of address or any comments to mvsignal@sun-spot.com.