Points East

By: Ike Adams

Due to popular demand by the reading public and two local physicians concerned that it is bad for my health, I have decided to refrain from writing about politics unless I absolutely can't help myself.

But, since the Presidential election will be decided by a bunch of lawyers, I can't help but get in at least one last jab.

Who do you call when you find a dozen lawyers buried up to their chins in concrete?

The answer is, you call the ready mix plant and order another truckload of concrete.

And with that said, I will assume that lotus position in the middle of the living room floor, close my eyes, stretch forth my arms, and meditate on still water and an oh-so gentle southerly breeze while I utter a monotonous ummmmmmmmmmm for the next several hours. Actually, if I could, in fact, get into the lotus position, I would probably be screaming for help because I'm pretty sure I couldn't get out of it unassisted and I know I would be in severe pain.

I'm trying to get into a Thanksgiving mood, I worked at it all weekend. I've confined my television viewing to old black and white movie channels, The Cartoon Network, and Animal Planet. I've also watched the original version of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Pardners* (the latter staring Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin) twice in the last forty eight hours.

Someone called to remind me to mention that Paint Lick will hold its annual "Christmas in the Village" Festival on December 9. If you have crafts, home cooking or other stuff to sell, here's a great opportunity to put it in front of bunch of customers. You don't have to make a reservation. Space is available on a first come, first served basis. Just find a wide spot beside the road and set up shop.

If you are in the mood to buy, here's a chance to get some bargains. We never know who's gonna show up but most vendors have their goods priced to move.

Santa Claus and the Missus will set up shop in the fire department and all the kids will get some goodies. Half a dozen musicians will likely be scattered around playing for nothing more than appreciation. "Christmas in the Village" activities will begin around 9 a.m. and last as long as folks want it to. There's no better way to get in the Christmas Spirit.

Speaking of The Christmas Spirit, The Paint Lick Sportsman's Club, which is mostly ruled by women, is in the middle of a toy drive. There are dozens of kids in or very near our community who live in households that do well to pay the rent and put food on the table. I don't think it's necessary to write an essay about the way a child feels when his or her classmates get covered up with gifts and he or she gets underwear and a pair of mittens.

About half the families who live in Paint Lick are members of the Sportsman's Club. We traditionally join forces with the Fire Department to put together nice food baskets for 50 or so sick and shut in families who would not otherwise get one and we don't call it charity. We like to be good neighbors and it's the neighborly thing to do. This year, we intend to also reach out to some children and see if we can't make their Christmas a whole lot brighter.

If you have good, clean, functional toys that your own kids have outgrown that you would like to donate or if you would like to purchase new ones and be assured that they will go to kids that will appreicate them, you have several options. You can drop them off at the Friends of Paint Lick Building during normal business hours or at Loretta's office at the Garrard County, UK Extension Service in Lancaster. Or you can mail them to Paint Lick Sportsman's Club, Paint Lick, KY 40461.

Better yet, bring them with you when you come to "Christmas in the Village" and leave them at the Fire Department. If you don't have any toys but would still like to help out, cash is never a bother. Someone will do your shopping for you. Please note on the memo of your check that you want your donation to go to the toy drive and someone will see to it that your donation is used to make a kid beam with excitement on Christmas morning.

Ahhhhhhh. This feels so much better than politics.

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Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves

Undoubtedly this election year has been the longest, most confusing, boring and expensive the U.S.A. has ever experienced. If money can't buy it; and conniving can't attain the coveted award, maybe we should erase all votes and flush them down the toilet and begin again. The billions already spent can be taken as a tax break by the contributions, the poor working people go back to their underpaid jobs, ask for the crumbs from the table left over from all the feasts and accept what we get as a president, then live happily ever after. Really, this charade has been outrageous to the honest intelligent people of the world.

That unstoppable political avalanch did collide with the immovable boulder and disturbed the colony of worms beneath which have wiggled and crawled their slimy way into the foundation of our democracy. The democracy that cost the lives of our young men at war and took grueling hours of study and work of our Founding Fathers to perfect into a document - The Constitution of the U.S.A. for the new world to use as a guide for the past 224 years. And has assured us, the citizens of the USA our right of free speech and liberty.

The Constitution nor Bill of Rights were written in one day. But remember, we had Statesmen then. Men who could think and solve multiple problems at the same time while running the estates and managing hundreds of laborers. They were not only highly and well educated men, they were men that knew how to use their intellect for the betterment of mankind.

The closest person I have seen that even remotely resembles one of these statesmen was - Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the president that turned a nation of depression weary people into one of workers taking home a long hoped for pay check. He was also the author of a Social Security plan to act as insurance for the aging population. It was designed so the working men and women had a portion of their wages taken from their pay check and matched by the employer, then invested by the government in a guaranteed plan we would begin using the benefits from when we reached the age of 65 years old. So far, or until the congress began meddling with it, it had worked. He was a statesman.

The other day when I saw Vice President Al Gore stand before the mike and speak about the confusion of the uncounted votes and offered to meet his opponent, George W. Bush before the mess got worse and work out a solution, then meet afterward at any place Bush chose to meet, I felt like I was seeing first hand a statesman I could be proud of regardless of the outcome.

Here he, Gore stood offering to help bring the people together, when it had been Bush's promise to the people to do it. And when George W. waited several hours before he even acknowledged the proffered hand and refused the offer, I felt like my face had been slapped by a child that had never been taught a simple act of courtesy. And I could almost see the foul little worms crawling from beneath the political rock that had been jarred. Before I saw and heard him speak that day, I did have respect for him, now I do not. "Sorry Dad and Mom, today I flushed the remnants of my republican up bringing down the toilet. I want my leader to be true to his word - bring people together, work with all people.

Let us prove to the world that "democracy does work." And civilized people can still reach across barriers of politics - ethic background, color or religious belief and still be civil to their advesary.

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BE AN ANGEL

Christmas is just around the corner. For many of us that means family get together, presents and lots of food.

However, for many elderly people, children and families Christmas is just another day of struggles.

Livingston Economic Alternatives in Progress would like to provide some of the less fortunate families with a food basket, clothing or gifts as needed. Many of these children do not have presents under the tree and we would like to brighten their holiday.

With your donation of $20.00 or more you would receive an Angel Certificate.

At the same time, you would be helping us with a heart warming cause.

Thank you and May God Bless You and Your Families this Holiday Season.

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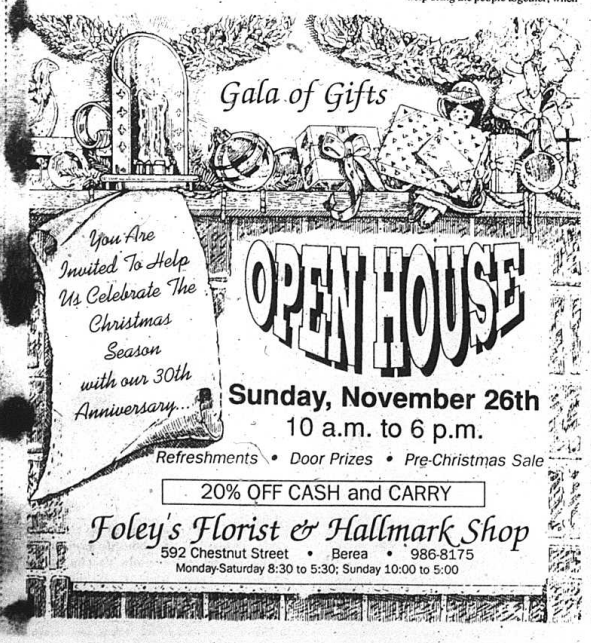

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