

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

In the wake of our national disaster I have been so proud and so impressed with the vast outpouring of togetherness as each group and individual put aside racial, religious and political partisanship in the interest of what is best for all. Would that it could forever be so.

As the tragedy hit the airwaves I was moved to tears by the pictures of high school students joining hands in prayer and song as they rallied round the Flag Pole before class. Though such scenes are a beautiful sight to behold, I have to keep reminding myself that these precious young people are growing up in a country where freedom of religious expression is no longer automatically protected; where their right to pray for a nation in pain is restricted to a specific time and place outside the classroom. Yet they come in droves to exercise the limited freedom still available to them. God must be so pleased!

If I recall correctly, this "See You at the Pole" practice began as a dignified but determined defiance of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that banned prayer in public school. At the first graduation exercises held under the new guidelines, courageous students across the country, clad in cap and gown, quietly marched off the stage and made their way to the school flag pole where they did their own praying. It was as if they had the proverbial line in the sand. And it spread like a prairie fire. Today this is billed as "an event that allows students the opportunity to pray before school."

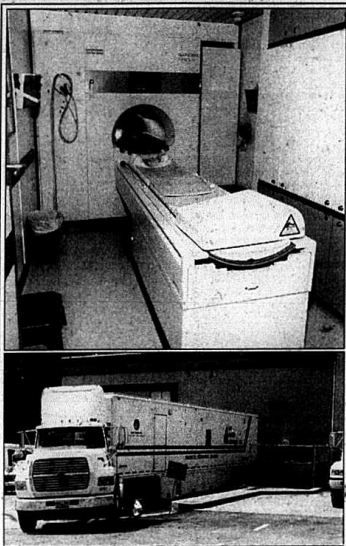
Get that? The students - tomorrow's defenders of freedom - must surely wonder at the rationality

of it all. Their constitutional rights have become "allowed opportunities," restricted and controlled by the same government they are asking God to bless and to guide. I'm sure their prayers are being well received today and I trust that those in power who benefit from the fervent pleadings at the pole site will reconsider their position and bring these young prayer warriors inside to a warm and friendly atmosphere. I've a feeling their kind will be sorely needed in the days to come!

Sincerely,
F. Christine McKinney
West Chester, OH

Dear Editor,

The players and coaches of the Rockcastle County High School Golf Team would like to express their sincere gratitude to the following for their contributions of money, concessions or time for the Homecoming dance held at Rockcastle County High School on Friday, September 28. The dance was one of the largest in school history. Thanks go out to Randall Robbins and FoodWorld, Pam Burdette and Pizza Hut, Jerry Pensol and Darlene Holt of Godfather's Pizza, James Miller, Margie O'Hara, Teresa Vanzant, Cedar Rapids Country Club Board Members, Richard and Jenny Bray, Joe and Linda Clinton, Mrs. Debbie Brown, Mrs. Dana Singleton, Mrs. Jill Ponder, Mrs. Debbie Cash, Mrs. Becky Perkins, Mr. John Hale, Mr. Dale Whitaker, Mt. Vernon City Police Department, Mrs. Joanne Guilford, Mrs. Sandra Mullins, Rockcastle County High School Cafeteria staff, Mr. Tim Reynolds, Mrs. Cayci Beaver and Mrs. Chrissy Noble. Again the golf team and coaches thank the above mentioned for their support.



No Need to Leave Rockcastle County for MRI

Service now available through RHRCC radiologist
Thanks to radiologist Don Dooley, MD, Rockcastle countians no longer have to travel out of the community for MRI services. Since August 17, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been coming to them on Friday mornings.

The mobile MRI pulls into the Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center parking lot ready to go at 8 a.m. and is there until 1 p.m. "It's a real inconvenience for people to go out of town for medical procedures, and now they don't have to if they need an MRI," Dr. Dooley said. "Currently, the service is available only on Friday mornings, but I anticipate that we'll bring the mobile MRI to the community more frequently as demand grows."

MRI provides a view inside the human body, which shows a level of detail that is remarkable compared with any other imaging modality. MRI is the method of choice for the diagnosis of many types of injuries and conditions because it allows physicians to adapt the exam to specific medical problems.

Appointments for MRI exams may be made through referral by family practice doctors. For more information, call Dr. Dooley's office at 606-256-5029.

"Ike"

(Cont. from A-2)

the folks who run the paper will know, too, that this little piece gets read.

It obviously gets read far more than I would have imagined and I am humbled by your patronage. Thank you!

And if we said anything in this piece that makes you worry about our nation's security, we apologize. We live next door to the largest stockpile of chemical weapons in the nation and while we could argue that they were not destroyed long ago because

"Sweet 'n Sour"

(Cont. from A-2)

and I must admit there were tears shed because of the quiet and loneliness when I was being introduced to the life of a city girl living in the foothills where the only sounds were whippoorwills or owls at night, both strangers to me, and the banging of a hammer or click of a hoe in the day time. I wasn't frightened of the night, I was homesick for familiar sounds.

Knowledge of the mutilation and devastation of the Appalachian Mountains was still in the future. I knew coal was being mined underground by men using picks to break it loose from the seam parallel to the rock above and below. Men crawled into them, dug it out, filled a wheelbarrow or cart to haul it to the entrance, etc. Later rails were laid and cars used on them for transporting the coal. Coal mining, like everything American, changed quickly as men found easier and more profitable ways to get the "black gold" out of the earth and to the market. Many states were blessed with the hidden fuel, that was to make millionaires of men willing, and knowledgeable enough, to take the cream and leave the work for others who were often impoverished by low wages and lack of knowledge of using wisely the pay for their work.

Kentucky and West Virginia had mountains with veins of coal running through them that couldn't easily be extracted by hand but another way was soon discovered to get it that would be more profitable to the owners of mineral rights. These rights had been bought before strip mining was ever thought of and then sold by owners of the property never dreaming their land could be taken from them by unscrupulous men using machinery to take the land from under their house to get the coal beneath it. At the same time coal companies were stripping black gold, the common name for coal, they were also destroying the growth of all trees on the mountain side. To get to the coal, acres of all vegetation had to be removed which included marketable timber as well as under growth which should soon replace. This is, being dumped along with the dirt, rocks, mud and coal too small for market, over the mountain side and into what was once creeks with pure water trickling over rocks to join other streams. Then we wonder why the water is unfit to drink? Why Lexington

is waiting to pipe water from the Ohio River for Ken Buckner's to drink? There was a clean water act passed in 1973, why hasn't it been enforced so the water from our own valleys will be fit to drink. What is wrong with the Army Corps of Engineers when they ignore the law by issuing permits that allow six miles of streams to be filled in for the removal of the mountain in Martin County? Today's Herald-Leader has an article about a suit brought against them by the organization, "Kentuckians for the Commonwealth", for doing this. They should also be interested in the destruction of the watersheds by removal of the trees whose roots form these beds that hold rain to later fill the streams below. Governor Patton should also be showing an interest in taking care of the Eastern part of the state. That is where his home was when he made his fortune in coal mining.

The last terrible tragedy in America, when the terrorists performed their dastardly deed of destroying part of New York City, killing 6,000 people then leaving a threat of more harm to come, might be the worst thing that has happened to "America the Beautiful" but if we take time to "stop, look and listen" we may find it isn't the only tragedy. When I fly over Eastern Kentucky, or just drive through the mountains, I see destruction caused by our very own citizens that turns my stomach. The beauty of the mountains has disappeared beneath the onslaught of machinery, where once green trees covered a mountainside, now a raw gash of dirt perhaps 30 ft. high surrounds it made by a giant machine. Sometimes the top of the mountain is left standing above with a few trees left as a reminder of what it once was.

We have allowed our state to be sold to the highest bidder. Then he or she not only destroyed the beauty but in so doing ruined the source of water which every living creature must have to survive. I know coal is necessary for warmth, water a necessary for existence. Which do we choose?

Fish Fry North Atlantic Cod Lil's Place

Main St. • Lexington

Saturday, Oct. 6th

Begins at 2 p.m.

Everyone Welcome



The Rockcastle County Public Library
And
The Rockcastle County Schools Service Learning Program
Recognize

"TEEN READ WEEK"

Thursday October 18th
6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Rockcastle County Public Library
60 Ford drive
Mt. Vernon, Ky

Honors English and Arts / Humanities Students
Present
Readers Theatre, Poetry and Storytelling

--- Refreshments Provided ---



Open House

Please join us for open house at

**Brodhead
Elementary School**
Sunday, October 14th
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served