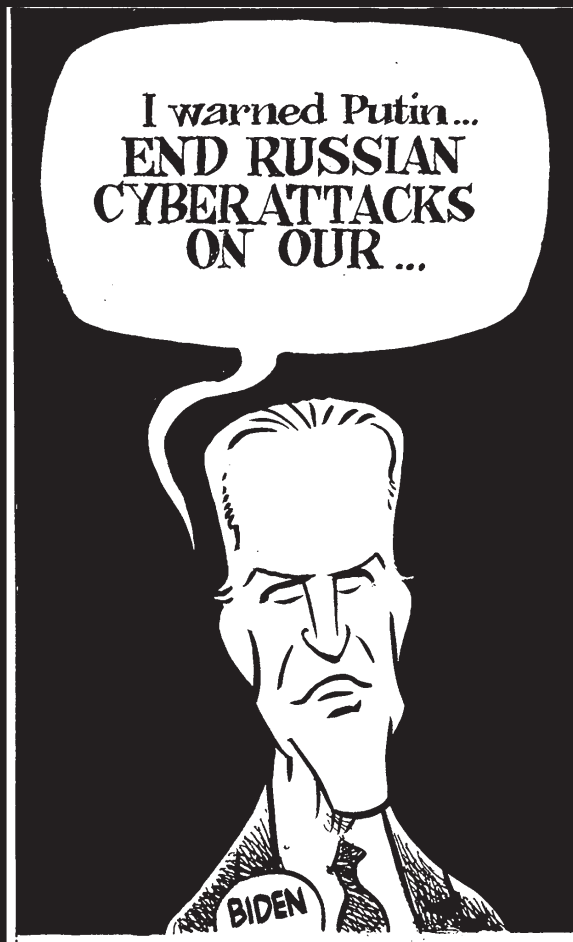


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Maudie's Naughties



Blind Pilots

Two pilots come onto the plane wearing dark glasses. One is using a guide dog and the other is tapping his way along the aisle with a cane.

Nervous laughter spreads throughout the cabin as the men enter the cockpit, the door closes and the engines start up. The passengers begin glancing nervously around, searching for some sign that this is just a little practical joke.

The plane moves faster and faster down the runway and the people sitting in the window seats suddenly realize they're headed straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As it begins to look as though the plane will plow into the water, panicked screams fill the cabin.

At that moment, the plane lifts smoothly into the air. The passengers relax and laugh a little sheepishly and soon all retreat into their magazines, secure in the knowledge that the plane is in good hands.

In the cockpit, one of the pilots turns to the other and says, 'Ya know, Bob, one of these days, they're gonna scream too late and we're all gonna die.'

Repair Job

Ma and Pa are sitting in the living room watching Hee Haw reruns when Ma says, "Hey, Pa, When are you going to fix that hole in the ceiling?"

"Well," replies Pa, "When you put away all your junk from off the couch and clean up this house."

A few minutes later, Ma is on the stepladder with a ruler and a pencil, measuring the hole.

"What are you doing?" asks Pa.

"Fixing the hole."

Anniversary

Ma and Pa are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and someone asks Pa what he has learned from all those years he's spent with Ma.

"Well," says Pa, "I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, forbearance, meekness, self-restraint, and forgiveness."

"What else have you learned?" they ask.

"That I wouldn't have had to learn all that stuff if I had just stayed single."

Well Insured

Gus and Slim show up at the same beach in Florida.

"What are you doing here?" asks Gus.

Slim replies, "You remember that overpriced house I bought in Richmond? Well, it caught fire the other day, so here I am with the insurance proceeds. What are you doing here?"

"Well," replies Gus. "You remember that big house I bought next to the river at Boonesborough? Well, the river flooded it, so here I am with the flood insurance proceeds."

"Gee," says Slim, "How do you start a flood?"

Special Ring

An older, white haired man walks into a jewelry store one Saturday evening with a beautiful young gal at his side. He tells the jeweler he is looking for a special ring for his girlfriend. The jeweler looks through his stock and brings out a \$5,000 ring.

The old man says, "No, I'd like to see something more special."

So, the jeweler goes to his special stock and brings another ring over. "Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000." The young lady's eyes sparkle and her body trembles with excitement.

The old man seeing this says, "We'll take it. I'll pay you for it with a check and you can hold the ring until Monday morning when the bank opens so you can see that the check clears."

Monday morning, the jeweler phones the man and says, "There's no money in that account."

"Yeah," says the old man. "But that didn't stop me from having a great weekend."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from Representative Bill Wesley

Interim week in review: legislative committees prepare for 2022 Session

With 200 days until we convene the 2022 Regular Session, we just wrapped up the third week of this year's Legislative Interim with committee hearings on issues ranging from rare pediatric health conditions to economic development opportunities. I thought it might interest readers to share a brief summary of what some of our committees learned.

Economic Development and Workforce Investment: Legislators received an update from the Cabinet for Economic Development on economic recovery, upcoming challenges and new jobs and investments. During their presentation, cabinet officials stated that they are seeing a dramatic increase in remote working and a corresponding trend of states providing incentives to lure those who can work from anywhere to their state. According to market trends, Kentucky's low cost of living, abundant natural resources, and good quality of life make our state an attractive location for folks looking to leave larger urban areas.

Health, Welfare, and Family Services: Committee members heard from parents and children's health advocates about the prevalence of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). According to the National Institute of Mental Health, symptoms are usually dramatic, onset rapidly, and can include motor or vocal tics or both and obsessions, compulsions, or both. According to testimony, almost one in 200 children may have PANS or PANDAS and those who have it face major challenges accessing treatment.

Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology: As a member of this committee, I was extremely pleased to see us tackle the labor shortage issue. Legislators heard from a variety of employers that "short-staffed is the new pandemic." Meaning, of course, that too many Kentucky businesses, nonprofits, and other employers are not able to fill open positions. According to testimony, 90 percent of employers have open positions, and 80 percent of those who reject job offers do so because they prefer to stay on unemployment. Despite multiple requests to end Kentucky's participation in the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program, the administration continues with providing an additional \$300 a week to those on unemployment. However, there are more than a hundred thousand jobs available and thousands of employers seeking workers. While the Governor is talking about incentives to get people back to work, the majority of our state is already back to work, and many never stopped working.

Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection: It is such an honor to be on this committee and be in a po-

sition to look out for the needs of the men and women who have served our nation. Legislators on this committee learned about the challenges faced by career-minded military spouses and their families as part of our ongoing effort to make Kentucky even more military friendly. There are more than 7,000 active-duty spouses in Kentucky, and 92 percent are female. Nearly 40 percent of military spouses have degrees and are still unable to find employment to help support their families. Forty-two percent of all active-duty service members reported "spouse career opportunities" are a factor in their preferences for a new duty station, and 18 percent reported "spouse employment concerns" as a reason they would leave military service. Though Kentucky is a member of at least 38 interstate compacts, the goal for 2021 is to create a continuum of opportunities to transfer occupational licenses between states.

If you would like to share your thoughts on these or any issues relating to the Kentucky General Assembly, please reach out to me. I can be reached here at home anytime, or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Feel free to contact me via email at Bill.Wesley@lrc.ky.gov. If you would like more information visit the LRC website www.legislature.ky.gov.

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