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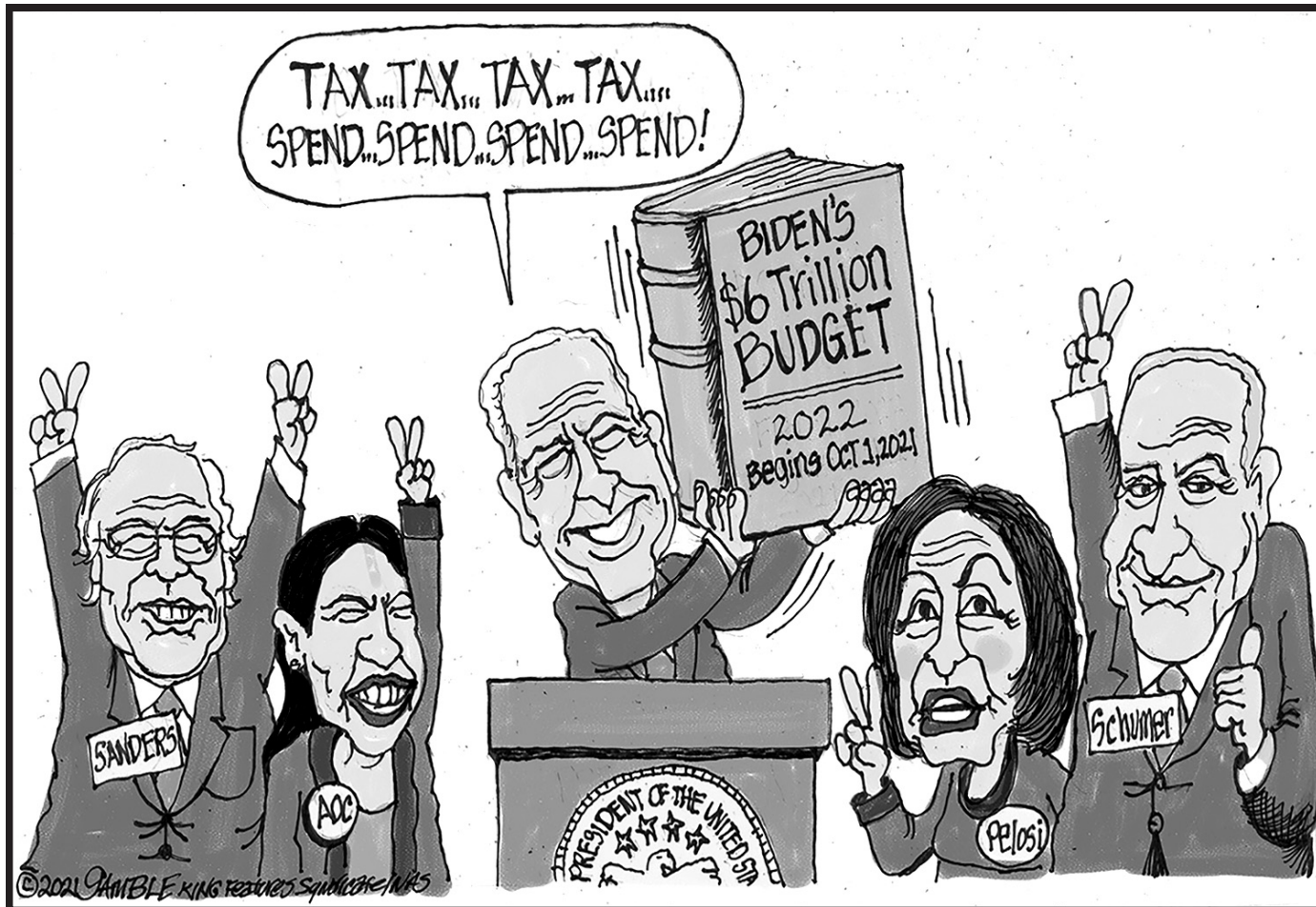
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Maudie's Naughties



Close Kin

Ma and Pa are sitting on the front porch when Junior and his friend Howard Green get home from the family reunion. They had heard something at the get-together about cousins that had married; so, Junior asks Ma and Pa if they are related.

"Well," answers Pa. "We're not any blood kin, but Ma is my wife and I am her husband."

"Wow," says Junior, turning to his friend Howard with a grin. "That means I'm my own double-first cousin!"

After the boys move on, Pa turns to Ma and says, "Ma, no offense, but I hope that boy doesn't ever bring us home any grandchildren."

"No offense taken," replies Ma. "Likewise I'm sure."

Black Bear At Needmore

Pa and Farmer Green are out walking in the woods. Green tells Pa, "We'd better be careful they've been seeing a big bear out this way and he chases people out of the woods."

"I'm not too worried about that bear," says Pa. But, about that time, the bear comes out of the bushes and rears up in front of them with an angry growl. Green takes off running and is about 100 yards away when he realizes that Pa is standing his ground against the bear with the two nose-to-nose. The bear suddenly stops growling, sniffs the air around him, then takes off running through the woods with his tail between his legs.

Green comes running back and asks Pa, "What did you do to that bear to make him run off like that?"

"I just used a little reverse hunting psychology on him. Do you remember last fall when Bubba's Nadine brought up a big pan full of the brownies she had made?"

"I remember," says Green. "Nobody could eat those things!"

"Well," continues Pa. "I ground up one of my old sweaty shirts and sprinkled it over the brownies and left them in the woods. Anybody or any thang that ate those brownies would have a bad memory of my odor for the rest of their life."

Remember To Be A Good Sport

About that time, Junior and Howard Green had heard the commotion and came to check on Pa. They had just gotten close enough to ask about Pa when they started sniffing the air. A funny look came over them both and they suddenly turned and ran over the hill, nearly catching up with the bear.

During the course of a heated softball tournament, the coach feels the need to remind one of her players about the importance of team play and good sportsmanship. The coach asks the player if she knows and remembers what good sportsmanship is. The player replies, yes. The coach then asks her if she knows she shouldn't curse at the umpire or throw things in anger. The player again replies, yes. "Good," says the coach, "Now run over to the stands and tell your father."

A Softball Player's View Of Umpires

A group of men are standing around the edge of the field and a softball player walks up and says, "Hey, do you want to hear a good joke about softball umpires?"

One of the men replies, "Be careful what you say, all five of us are umpires."

"Well, forget it then," says the player. "I don't have time to explain the joke five times!"

Just To Be Fair -- An Umpire's View of Softball

How many softball players does it take to screw in a light bulb? Impossible! They're too busy whining about the last call.

What is the difference between a softball player and a puppy? A puppy will eventually stop whining!

A Softball Player -- What It Means

You know you're a softball junkie if... you think dressing up means getting a clean softball tournament shirt.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from Representative Bill Wesley

Legislators continue focus on economic recovery

All eyes are on the Kentucky Supreme Court as we wait for its seven members to rule on the governor's challenge to legislation that would refine the emergency powers granted to Kentucky governors. The court will meet to hear arguments on June 10. As you know, this is four months after the legislation passed and the governor filed suit to prevent new laws from taking effect that would have ended the administration's inconsistent and arbitrary COVID-19 policies. While many of the remaining executive orders and administrative regulations expire on June 11, this legal challenge has historic repercussions as the much of the legislation in question also applies to all states of emergency.

In the meantime, I will join my colleagues at the Capitol as the 2021 Interim begins on June 1. During this year's interim, our focus will be on a variety of issues likely to be on the agenda for next year's session. Legislators will hear from state agencies and individual Kentuckians, as well as gather data and information. Ultimately, my goal is to use what we learn in the interim to craft the best possible public policies for our commonwealth.

Without a doubt, one of the top issues we will consider is our state's economy. Specifically, how we can continue creating opportunities for Kentuckians across the state. Prior to the pandemic, we had record low unemployment, historic economic investment, and were on track to shatter state revenue records. This good fortune was not a fluke. After all, success happens when opportunity meets preparation. Kentucky's success was the product of a strategic approach to building our economy that began when conservative Kentuckians were given the majority in the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2016. It began with changes to our tax code that broadened the base and decreased taxes - allowing more people to pay less. It continued as we invested in developing our workforce, attracted new jobs and helped existing companies expand.

Frankly, the policies enacted over the past several years are a key part of the reason our state has weathered the pandemic without a massive crisis. Just last month, two of the three major credit ratings agencies - Fitch Ratings and Moody's - shared positive news. Moody's issued a report praising our economic recovery and Fitch Ratings upgraded Kentucky from "negative" to "stable." Both announcements are good news, but they only paint part of the picture. For example, do we really want to celebrate a stable rating when we should be better than that? Also, the massive infusion of federal stimulus funds that artificially increase spending and therefore sales tax collections - what happens when they end? You must dig a little deeper to find the full story. You can look at the data, like the fact that Kentucky ranks second to last in state debt among our seven neighboring states with S&P Global,

Moody's, and Fitch Ratings. Or you can look at anecdotal evidence and consider that neighboring states like Tennessee are booming while many of Kentucky's small businesses have faced permanent closure or cutting services. Now that they are reopening at full capacity, they struggle to find employees.

As you can see, there remains a great deal of uncertainty surrounding our economic recovery and we have a lot of work to do. However, there are some positive signs to consider. In upgrading the state's rating, Fitch pointed specifically to "...the Commonwealth's ability to navigate the ongoing budgetary implications without materially weakening its fiscal resilience." This means that our commitment to passing a responsible budget and wisely investing federal stimulus dollars played a significant role in the ratings upgrade.

We know for a fact that the path to prosperity it is untying the hands of our business owners, removing barriers to a return to work for workers, and responsibly investing state revenue. Growing the size of government is not the right answer, despite what the administration wants us to believe. After all, I think most of us would agree that the people of Kentucky should work less for their government and more for themselves.

Now that the 2021 Interim has begun, I hope you will follow meeting coverage on the Legislative Research Commission's website at legislature.ky.gov. As always, I can be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181 or by email at Bill.Wesley@lrc.ky.gov.

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