

Our 34th Year Serving Estill County!

The Estill County Tribune

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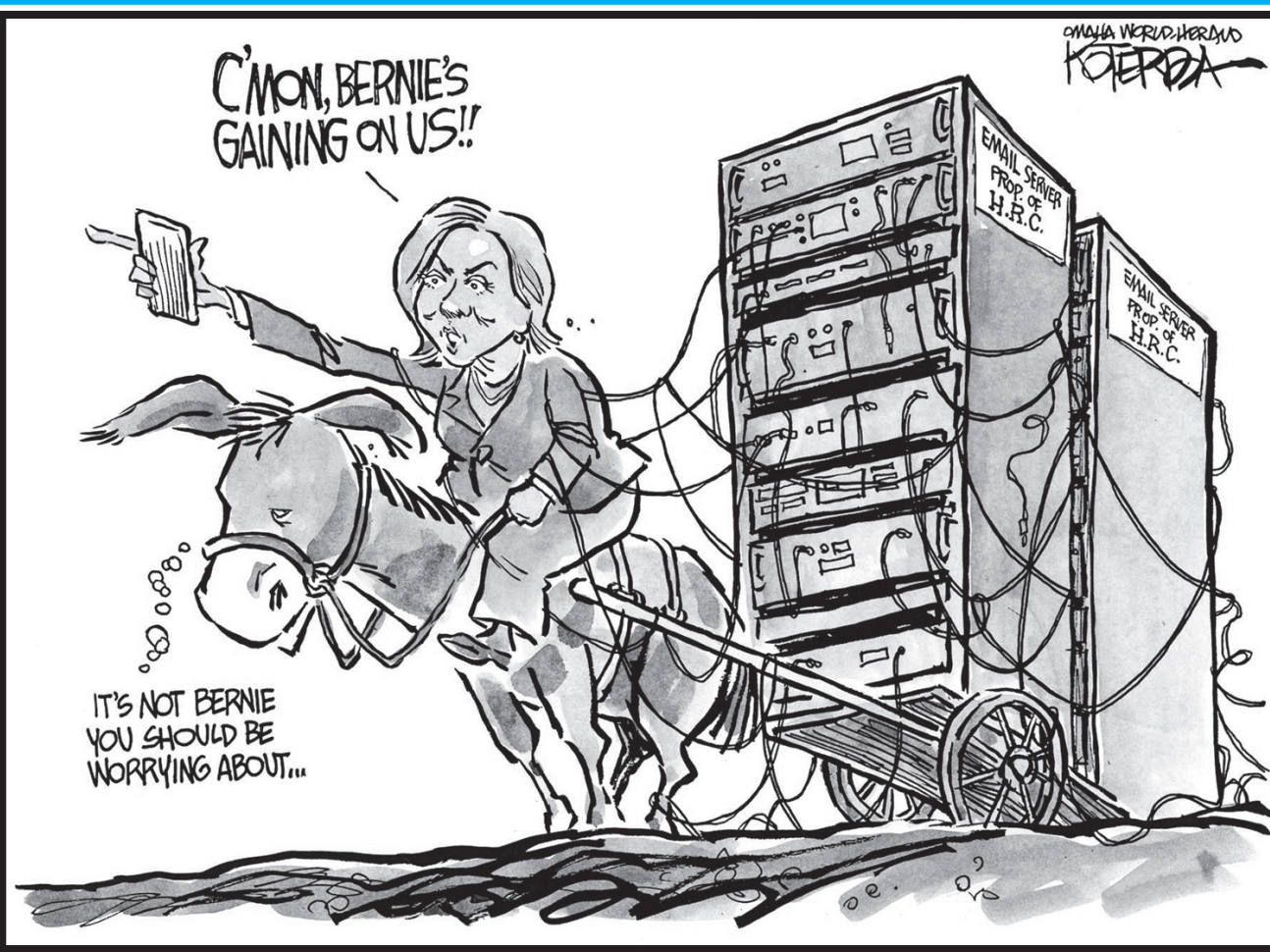
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Phone (606) 723-5012, Fax (606) 723-2743
Email: <news@estilltribune.com>

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Maudie's Naughties



The Break In

Trixie returns home from work and is shocked to find her house ransacked and burglarized. She telephones the police at once and reports the crime.

The police dispatcher broadcasts the call on the channels. A K-9 unit patrolling nearby is the first on the scene.

As the K-9 officer approaches the house with his dog on a leash, Trixie runs out on the porch, claps a hand to her head and moans, "I come home from work to find all my possessions stolen, I call the police for help, and what do they do? They send a BLIND policeman!"

The Irvine Song

Little Wilma and Pa are sitting on the porch and Little Wilma asks, "Pa, have you heard that new 'Irvine song'?" "Yeah," says Pa. "A couple of times. It's pretty funny!" "Well," asks Little Wilma, "Why don't we have a Needmore song?" "We do," replies Pa. "Ma sings it every morning. 'Need more of this and Need more of that, a whole lot of beans and a little pork fat...'"

"That guy must be pretty talented to play the guitar and the harmonica at the same time," says Little Wilma. "Can you play two instruments at the same time, Pa?"

Ma answers quickly, "Pa... he can't even walk and chew gum at the same time."

Bedbugs

"They say they had bedbugs down at the courthouse," says Little Wilma. "Did we ever have bedbugs, Pa?"

"Nope," replies Pa. "We always put a can full of coal oil under each leg of the bed."

"Did that keep you from having bedbugs?"

"Must have, we never did have any... but the coal oil made everything smell funny."

"The closest I ever had to having bedbugs was when I stayed overnight at the big softball tournament. I went to that place that 'leaves the light on' because I figured if the light was on, any bedbugs wouldn't be crawling."

"I started to bed and when I undressed I felt something clinging to my side. I reached down and sure enough there was something small and round sticking to my skin. I pulled it away and held on real tight so I could capture it. I held it up and it was white and round with a black number 8 on it."

"Was it an albino bedbug that was numbered so they can keep track of them," asks Little Wilma?

"No, it was an inspection sticker where I bought a shirt at Wal-Mart!"

"Do you know much about bedbugs?" asks Little Wilma.

"I know the song," replies Pa.

*I woke up this morning, and looked up on the wall;
The roaches and the bedbugs were playing a game of ball.
The score was six to nothing, the roaches were ahead,
The bedbugs knocked a home run and knocked me out of bed.*

"Who taught you that," asks Little Wilma, "the teacher?"

"No," replies Pa. "The class bully. I'm afraid to forget it!"

Wet/Dry

"What do you think about the town going wet?" Little Julie asks Pa.

"I don't like it," replies Pa. "Our family spent years perfecting the making of moonshine and the government took it away from us."

"It's the same way with money. Some of the uncles made some of the prettiest bills you've ever seen. They put them in prison and broke their printing plates. Now, Washington is making money 24-hours, day and night, and it doesn't even look like real money."

Woman On The \$10 Bill

"What woman's picture do you think they ought to put on the new \$10. bill?" asks Little Wilma.

Pa replies, "I think they ought to put Ma's picture there because she can make a \$10 bill disappear quicker than anyone I know of."

Are Your Parents Home?

A salesman walks up to a house and knocks on the door. It's opened by a 14-year-old boy who has a lit cigar in one hand, a glass of whiskey in the other and a hard core porn magazine tucked under his arm.

"Hello, Sonny. Are your parents home?"

The boy replies, "What do you think?"

Justice

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Converted

Moe: "My wife converted me to religion."

Joe: "Really?"

Moe: "Yes. Until I married her, I didn't believe in hell."

Letter To The Editor

The Way People Think in East Kentucky Now

East Kentucky, the 51st State: Now eastern Kentucky cities are feeling what Irvine, Stanton, Campton, Beattyville and a whole lot more eastern Kentucky towns have felt.

Most of the jobs are gone from the area now. In the last 30 years, Irvine has lost so much. They used to have two large chain grocery stores, three new car dealers (two that sold tractors, too), a clothing factory that employed several people, several full service gas stations, 2 or 3 dollar stores and several furniture and clothing store, two drug stores and several restaurants on Main Street, jewelry stores, pool rooms, auto parts houses and a lot more.

Estill County and Irvine and Ravenna sure have changed. Ravenna had a railroad yard with over a 1,000 cars sitting in the yard at one time. Now, most of the time, no cars are sitting at the railroad yard.

Several hundred jobs left with railroad. Irvine had two hotels and a motel. Ravenna had a hotel and one small motel.

Southeast Coal Company had a large car wash operation which employed several workers. Oil companies had several work-

ers at Rogers Fork, Gum Springs and the Furnace area. But now, there might be 20 workers.

Sun Oil and Wiser Oil were two large oil companies working in Estill County. Several privately-owned oil companies had workers all over Estill County.

EPA rules run most oil companies out of Estill, Lee, Powell and a lot more. Now, where 100's of workers once was, there are a few. Workers comp and EPA put a lot of loggers and sawmills out of business.

Tobacco was then taken from farms. That was most small farmers largest cash crop. Now, you can raise tobacco but there is no guarantee what price you will get for it.

Powell County had two large factories. Both shut down and moved to other countries. Now, they've only got a few small factories not employing very many workers. Burke Parsons and Bowlby moved out. Several jobs were lost there. But the impact was hard on family sawmills who sold railroad tie cuts to them. A lot of people cut pine posts and sold them there. They had 2 or 3 crews building log homes

they built.

Seems like the Kentucky border comes up I-75 and at Madison County and goes to Clark and Montgomery and then straight to Maysville. If you are on the eastern Kentucky side, then factories can't get built there. But workers from these counties can drive to Winchester, Richmond, Lexington, Georgetown and Mount Sterling to work.

People living in Eastern Kentucky don't have much to look forward to at home when looking for jobs. Now coal jobs are leaving, they have a lot less.

People made fun of Governor Bert Combs for building the Mountain Parkway. But, no telling how much money Kentucky got from just coal trucks in the 70's and 80's coal boom. You couldn't drive from Stanton to Winchester without 20 coal trucks passing you and meeting several com-

ing back hauling sand. Out of about 30 coal haulers in Powell County, only one is left now.

Why does Frankfort not try to help Eastern Kentucky? They sure love all the tax money they get. Coal tax even helped build Rupp Arena. But, how much coal did Lexington have?

The last two elections have showed how upset Eastern Kentucky is at Frankfort now. Hope that something can be done to help Eastern Kentucky this fall.

We have the labor and land to build new factories in Eastern Kentucky. Have a lot of four-lane roads to get stuff moved in and out. But, why does all the new jobs go to central and western Kentucky now? Does our vote and tax money count for anything in Eastern Kentucky or we're just like a thorn in Frankfort's side?

**Michael Proffitt
Furnace Junction**