

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

Consolidation of the Delphi Journal-Citizen (Est. 1839) and the Flora Hoosier Democrat (Est. 1897).

Published each Wednesday at 114 East Franklin St., Delphi IN 46923. Periodical Class Postage Paid at Delphi IN 46923 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Carroll County Comet, PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026 USPS 285-840

Published by CARROLL PAPERS, Inc. PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026 Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

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Editorial Writers: Susan Scholl, Comet Staff

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES in Advance - Per Year
Carroll County, Service People and Counties which border Carroll - \$30.00.
All other Indiana counties - \$36.00; All other states - \$40.00.
Addresses changed for seasonal residences - Add \$3.00
Address changes - subs@carrollcountycomet.com

Memberships include:



For good or ill

By Lee H. Hamilton

When it comes to policy, Americans are an impatient people. We see a problem — the war in Iraq or our failing health care system — and want it resolved as soon as possible. Our expectations for quick action are at their highest when we vote for change in the Congress. So it's no surprise that many Americans wonder why, after making their preferences on Iraq clear last November, it is taking Congress so long to act.

As the Capitol Hill wrestling match over the war suggests, Congress is not especially suited to radical or immediate change. It took seven years of effort, after all, before Congress finally cut off funding for the Vietnam War — and by the time it acted, there were no longer U.S. troops stationed there.

The plain truth is that Congress is comfortable with incrementalism, not speed.

It is not immediately clear why this should be so. Aren't members of Congress there to represent the American people? And if Americans use their votes in congressional elections to register discontent or promote a change in policy, shouldn't that be reflected quickly in the Senate and House chambers?

One way to think about this might be to remember your trips to a video store to rent a movie. On your own, you can choose pretty quickly. Go with one other person and, inevitably, it takes longer. And if you go with a couple of friends or family members, you can be there for a half hour arguing over your choices.

So imagine what happens when 535 members of Congress — each representing a different constituency, each with his or her own opinions, each attuned to different voices in this diverse, multi-faceted nation of ours — have to grapple with issues as complex as war, our health care system, the tax code or the perilous state of our fiscal health.

Forging an approach that can command a majority of votes takes creativity, flexibility, persuasion, horse-trading and, above all, time. It may require year after year of effort before legislation can make it out of a committee, let alone pass on both the Senate and House floors and be signed into law by the President.

This explains, in part, why Congress tends to react to problems or to the President's initiatives, rather than instigating fundamental change on its own. Every so often it can muster the will to rewrite how the United States behaves — as it did in the 1980s when it opted for sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa over the objections of President Ronald Reagan. For the most part, however, Congress prefers to tackle small slices of a large problem, rather than the entire problem at once.

So we get health coverage for children in low-income families, or an expansion of prescription coverage for seniors, rather than a comprehensive remake of our health-care system or a basic rewrite of the Medicare laws.

We get tinkering every year with the tax code, rather than such radical measures as moving to a so-called "flat tax" or closing for once and all the loopholes that special interests have won over the years.

And we see a series of legislative initiatives on Iraq — first a nonbinding resolution, then a bid to enact some limits in a supplemental appropriations bill, then a focus on the defense appropriations bill, and then attempts to use other legislative vehicles to change the federal government's approach toward the war.

As frustrating as all this can be to Americans who want change right away, this gradual approach often serves the nation well. It allows the diverse and often conflicting views of the body politic to be heard and, generally, incorporated into the final product. In economic affairs, it promotes the economy's stability, rather than forcing major changes and their unintended consequences through the system.

There is a risk to incrementalism, though: that the problem you're trying to address grows faster than your ability to get your arms around it.

That's what appears to be happening in health care; since the failure of the Clinton health plan in the early 1990s, the system seems only to have careened closer to the brink of unworkability. And it may be what is happening with the ever-expanding debt that our government is amassing, a habit that economic experts agree has the potential to be disastrous.

It takes a lot to overcome Congress' preference for tackling issues piece by piece, but it's not impossible. Eventually, when basic problems go unchecked, they balloon to the point where public patience with incrementalism wears thin.

This happened during the Clinton years with welfare reform, it is taking place now with the war in Iraq, it shows signs of occurring in health care and it is bound to happen should our chronic fiscal indebtedness cause widespread economic hardship.

Faced with enough pressure, Congress can face up to fundamental problems and act on them. Whether it feels that pressure, though, is up to the American people.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Marriage Licenses

Kyle Steven Dewitt, 27, and Elisabeth Gail Rausch, 26, both of Camden.
Joseph Michael Long, 22, and Chanda Marie Draper, 23, both of Delphi.
Benjamin Lynn Lindsey, 26, and Sabrina Kay Duvall, 21, both of Delphi.
John Leroy Gill, 21, and Jennifer Lynn Stephens, 20, both of Bringham.
Mark A. Westlake, 41, and Livia M. Trent, 33, both of Brookston.
Brice W. Miller, 42, and Abigail L. Heckard, 28, both of Camden.
Michael Andrew Ellis, 26, and Victoria LeighAnne Randle, 23, both of Monticello.
Roy Carl Shaw, 62, of Delphi, and Carol Ann Fawley, 58, of Pine Village.
Matthew Joe Ledford, 25, and Crystal Lee Andrews, 24, both of Monticello.
Brian Joseph Ropes, 30, and Bobbi Jean Bousum, 27, both of Bringham.

The endless spinoffs of the hit series CSI shouldn't have to involve just big city locales or necessarily even be limited to crime scenes. There's a lot of trouble out there that warrants investigating. That's why I'm proposing a local spin-off with a twist - Crabby Scene Investigators. CSI-Delphi, if you wish.

Why, you ask?
Silly, you scoff.
Well, there's an excess state of crabby going on in my life. And I'd sure be glad if someone, anyone investigated the current state of affairs.

Ok, so take the lint roller, for instance.

The lint roller is an amazing invention. I shall always be somewhat indebted to the inventor of the lint roller for the order and hope he or she has contributed to my life. Among the given elements in my daily routine are two furry cats at home, an auto with clingy cloth interior seats and a couple pair of trousers with lint magnets hidden somewhere inside. All these things combined make the lint roller an essential tool in order to appear anywhere in public. My lint rollers are used multiple times a day.

I keep one lint roller near the front door, another is discretely positioned in a side door pocket in the car. Replacement rollers are kept in various drawers around the house.

Cheap lint rollers can be had for 10 for \$10 on super sale at the grocery store. These rollers

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



CSI...Delphi?

are fine, but not quality. The surface of the cheap lint roller doesn't pick up all that well. The cheap lint roller requires a lot of, well, rolling. And the little disposable squares of lint trapping material, they simply don't tear off as easily, or as precisely, as the premium ones. A really good lint roller will set you back \$2.98. If you're desperate, a lint roller at the convenience store will clock in at a whopping \$3.49. When you do the math - you can spend a lot of money in this arena. Let's face it, lint doesn't come off cheap.

So what's my big beef with my lint rollers? Why so crabby?

The lint roller comes from the manufacturer wrapped in an outer packaging of some marvelous miracle material. The outside of the packaging is smooth and pleasant to the touch. The inside of this protective outer layer is also smooth. The protective wrap material is not tacky like the lint roller material. Lint, hairs, fuzz, fluff, dust, dander, dirt, sand, crud and crumbs, all these things that stick to the lint roller material do not stick to the outer protective manu-

facturer's wrap in which the roller arrives. Factory equipment, I would call it.

Imagine how lint roller sales would grind to a halt if these handy items were sold without their protective non-adhesive outer wrappings. There they would sit on the shelves attracting, literally, dust and bits of yarn and hair and all kinds of yuck.

When I first open a new lint roller I do so ever so carefully. I separate the outer protective manufacturer's wrap so that I may wrap and re-wrap my lint roller after each and every use. Otherwise, without that protective wrapper, the lint roller in my car, the lint roller near my front door, the "in case of emergency" roller stashed away in a drawer, well that roller, stored without the reusable manufacturer's outer layer, that roller is full of dust, debris, lint.... I could go on and on - and I do.

Everyone in my extended family who uses my lint rollers do the exact same thing. They throw away the outer protective wrapping that I have painstakingly saved and reused to keep my roller fresh! It makes me crabby! Someone should investigate this state of affairs.

And you, the reader rolling his or her eyes over the absurdity of my little tirade, you just happen to have a small piece of orange thread stuck to....well, I've decided I'm not going to tell you where it is. So there.

Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Good news needs shared

It is sad that you usually only hear about the bad news that happens, like the murders at Virginia Tech, Iraq, etc. Those things need to be told, but so do the good things that happen.

On Feb. 11, our barn burned along with everything that was in it, including our prize-winning stallion and a pet baby calf. Some unknown good citizen, just passing by, reported the fire. There were firefighters here from several surrounding communities, tirelessly giving of their time and efforts.

Good neighbors brought food for our family and hay, feed and tack for our remaining five horses. Good friends came in the middle of the night with their horse trailer and took the horses to their farm and kept them for two weeks. Then on April 21, approximately 47 men from the Old Order German Baptist community came and erected a new horse barn for us. By Saturday evening a beautiful barn stood where that morning there was none. Some of their wives and children came along, brought food and cold drinks, and helped with lunch preparations.

What a joyous day of fellowship we had together. What a great place to live. We think good news needs to be shared.

Tim and Lisa Martin
and family,
Camden

Restaurant Inspections

Restaurant inspections

Correction: In last week's issue it was incorrectly reported that Delphi Pizza King had violations. The violations belonged to Brosman's IGA. Pizza King had no violations. The corrected entries follow:

Brosman's IGA
Routine inspection: 4/17/07
Summary of violations: 4 non-critical
There were some cases (Chicken Tenders, Onions Rings, Poultry and Alaskan Pollock) being stored on the floor in the freezer. Directed to correct by 4/17/07.

The vents above the fryer had a heavy accumulation of dust. Directed to correct by 4/18/07.
The ceiling in the back area of the deli by the fryer did not have a ceiling attachment. Directed to correct by 2 weeks.

The small freezer in the deli did not have a thermometer to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by 4/18/07.

Delphi Pizza King
Routine inspection: 4/27/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Bresnahan's
Routine inspection: 4/27/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Jackson Twp. Youth League
Routine inspection: 4/23/07
Summary of violations: 2 non-critical

There was not a thermometer in the refrigerator/freezer to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by 4/27/07.

The dumpster does not have a concrete base under it. Directed to correct by 3 weeks.

Stephan's IGA
Routine inspection: 4/24/07
Summary of violations: 1 critical, 1 non-critical

Critical
There was some Enfamil pro-so-bee and AR Lipil with a date of February 2007. Directed to correct by 4/24/07.

Non-critical
There was a heavy accumulation of ice on the ceiling in the walk-in freezer. Directed to correct by 4/30/07.

Wick's Packaging
Routine inspection: 4/24/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

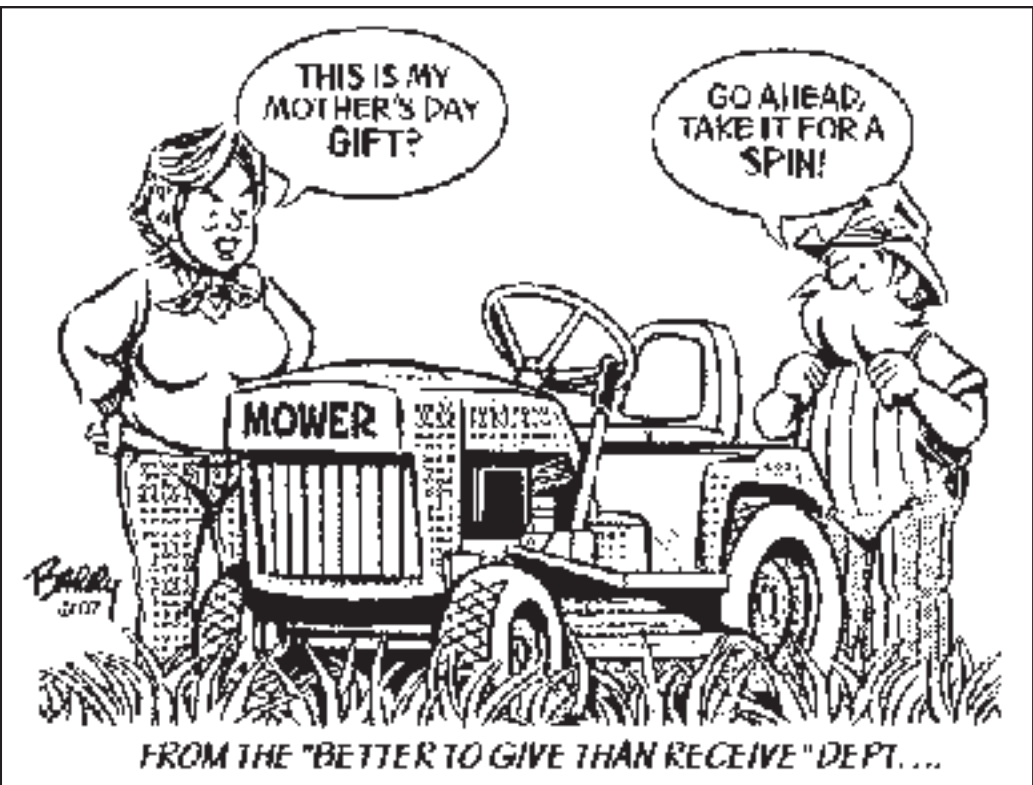
Delphi Discount Tobacco
Routine inspection: 4/25/07
Summary of violations: 1 non-critical

There was not a thermometer in the chest freezer to measure the air temperature. Corrected.

Indiana Packers Corp.
Routine inspection: 4/23/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 1 non-critical

Critical
The sanitizing solution in the 3-bay sink read over 400 ppm. Corrected.

Non-Critical
There was an open container (drink) by the dish machine on top of the sanitizing machine (not covered). Corrected.



FROM THE "BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE" DEPT. ...

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

Ernesto S. Chaples, 37, of Logansport, pled guilty to driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Causes of the State of Indiana against the following were dismissed: Tony L. Barden; Kayla B. K. Britton; Kevin P. Christian; Mark L. Storey II; Amanda Shelley; and Kimberly M. White.

The following cases were dismissed: Acuity Insurance Co. vs. Tri-State Cob Ltd.; Discover Bank vs. Peggy Hemstine; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. vs. Richard A. Parker Jr.; Deborah R. Parker and Salin Bank and

Trust Co.; National City Bank vs. Michael E. Miller and Kathleen A. Miller; Wells Fargo Bank NA vs. William K. Peters; Discover Bank vs. Donna Coup; Marlene Butcher vs. Shore Mortgage; and Donald F. Connelly vs. Brandon & Randie Wherley.

In a default judgement, Carrie Mehrings and Tony Mehrings were ordered to pay \$5,601.27 to Old National Bank.

Orders of garnishment were ordered against the following: Stacy L. Wilcox Brown in the amount of \$5,971; Belinda Snowberger, \$1,541; Archie Gainey, \$1,740; Lisa D. Knott, \$640; Dustin D. Inman, \$1,918;

Kristy Lynn Martin, \$1,992; Tamra N. Aills, \$10,214; Sarah Stone, \$289; Kelly Anderson, \$3,122; Robert H. Wilson, \$356; Freddie T. McKay, \$437; Dale Minniear, \$228; Timothy W. Hunt, \$223; and Kelly J. Davis, \$265.

Mary K. Clendenen was ordered to pay \$4,603.16 to First Resolution Investment Corp. In an agreed judgement, Lance Martin and Melissa K. Foster were ordered to pay \$2,053.27 to Lifestyles of Jasper Inc.

Ron Tedrow and Lisa Thompson-Tedrow were ordered to pay \$838.64 to Steve Morehouse.

William Perry, 39, of Walska, Ga., pled guilty to resisting law enforcement and criminal mischief. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all but 120 days suspended, and 245 days supervised probation.

Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the Comments link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

When there is no county primary election, do you think county government employees should be given the day off as a paid holiday?

Yes
No
Undecided

Last Weeks results

The cost of rebuilding one mile of county road per year is equal to chip and sealing roughly 100 miles of road. Which are you in favor of?

40% Rebuilding, because it will make the roads last longer
60% Chip and sealing, because more miles of roadway will be improved
Total responses: 47

Reader's comments:

The county roads would last a lot longer if they were repaired right! It does not matter if you pave or chip and seal, you must get the water to run off the edge and into the ditch for drainage. The county continues to waste our tax dollars trying to make repairs! Berm the edges, reshape the ditches where needed for correct drainage and put the crown of the road back in the center! Now you are ready to repair a road. Last year the county chip and sealed a road east of SR 29 to the Howard County line. This was done without any thought to drainage. This past winter water froze on the road creating a dangerous situation. The county then spent our tax dollars by sending a grader to that site to break/scrape the ice off the road. This looks like some very bad management. I think you might be chasing your own tail. Does it really take a certified engineer to figure this out? I don't think so. Get it together Carroll County Highway Department....please!

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, May 10
√T.L. Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White Co. Gov. Bldg.
Tuesday, May 15
√Carroll school board: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 16
√Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.
√Delphi school board.: 7 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Myers.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Smith.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Gallaber.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Veach.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Mote.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Flint.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Little.....5B
Sheriff Sale-Woodhams.....5B
Crain Estate.....5B
Carroll Sch-Not to Bidders..5B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.

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