

identify the owner of a weapon used on a crime if the weapon is found. That will not prevent the crime from occurring.

If gun control is to be effective in reducing crime, then it must be of a

confiscation authorities.

If the system were to be an involuntary confiscation, how could it be handled? Would the FBI have to search every home to locate guns? Do we wish to create a national

In either case, a system designed to confiscate handguns would certainly create one thing — a thriving black market for guns. Not one thing has the government successfully kept from people who are

this debate to the forefront. But would gun control have prevented this or any other premeditated crime? The suspect allegedly stalked not only Mr. Reagan but President Carter last year. The man who

that 62 percent of Americans want stricter laws governing the sale of handguns. But with 400 of our neighbors dying every week, we only get upset when a crackpot takes a shot at a public figure. The

help us, we do love us.

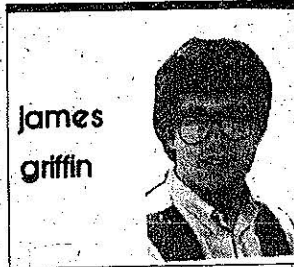
Dana Pico is a staff columnist. His column appears every other Thursday.

Who gets the coverage? Time and effort don't seem to make the front page

You see the complaints in the Letters to the Editor every week: "How could the newspaper have missed the event we sponsored last week? Thousands of people showed up, we raised thousands of dollars for charity and broke three records in the Guinness Book."

Or this one: "Our chess team won the sub-Midwest regional paired competition for staggered entries on a seven-man field, and we didn't see anything about it in the paper."

Some of the letters make a good point: The newspaper should have known about the event and sent a reporter or photographer. Others, though, fail to grasp the realities imposed on those who print words for money. There is limited space, and even less time and resources,



James Griffin

allocated to a daily newspaper.

What pleases the tastes of the most readers is often the best that can be hoped for, and the special interests of the minority must be satiated by small, specialized magazines and trade papers.

The answer is not always simple,

and the following case illustrates this well.

On Monday, the University of Kentucky's debate team advanced to the semi-final round of competition at the National Debate Tournament. What's more, Jeff Jones, one of the UK debaters, was voted the tournament's top speaker, the best debater in the country.

If Steve Mancuso or Jeff Jones were basketball players, as the classic argument goes, their names would be household words throughout the Bluegrass. Alas, those chose to debate and, as a result, the spotlight will never shine their way, their fame restricted to those who know them well or watch them perform. They will not survive on their notoriety, as have many ex-UK

basketball players.

Surely, the victorious debaters merit some media attention. The selection of UK cheerleaders was covered by CBS in depth, and the endless post-season basketball play continues to receive ample newsprint.

Should a UK athlete travel to California for the national tournament, the media will follow along, sending back reports by telephone and generally beating the story to death. Not only would the debaters not have to worry about phoning in the results of the tournament on their own, they would now have to confront the gazing eyes of more attention than most people can handle.

When Mancuso and Jones lost in the semi-final round of the National

Debate Tournament in Pomona, California on Monday, they slinked off to their hotel room without the burden of inquiring reporters or the glare of television mini-cam spotlights. Maybe Wednesday, when they returned home, someone would call the media or UK's information service, but by then the story would be worth an inch, or a few seconds, or two, at most.

It is hard to draw comparisons between different activities, even different athletic endeavors. But debaters put in at least the same amount of preparation for just as extended a time period.

They research several hours a day, on the average, year round, with full practice sessions (more than five hours a day) throughout the regular season, which runs from October through April.

When the debaters attend a tournament, they debate more than eight times a weekend, sometimes a dozen rounds an hour and a half in duration. They might attend a dozen tournaments a year, traveling to both coasts and across the midwest.

They miss more than their share of classes, a liability compensated by meager partial scholarships and time-consuming work-study programs.

Roger Solt, UK's assistant coach, lives on what can only be described as a poverty-level wage, with compensation on a part-time basis for a work-week that frequently runs more than 80 hours.

Dr. J.W. Patterson, UK's head coach, has a budget that is a fraction of what is necessary for the task. Several hundred yards from the debate offices there is a fleet of

meet Gil Skillman, a UK graduate and the nation's top debater his senior year. Gil would surely help smooth the way for a former Kentuckian, and the cumulative effect of many alumni helping UK students is what helps universities advance.

Debate alumni also contribute to the university's coffers and are consistently among the most interested leaders seeking ways to assist the university and direct its future.

Who is to blame for the neglect of activities like debate?

Before indicting the media, consider the circumstances they face — low reader interest, lack of space and competing demands on their attention. If the media are to help build interest in debate, they will need the cooperation, indeed, the urging, of the university to keep them aware of the results on a more timely basis. That in only fair.

It is ironic, though, that a paper with an editorial page crying out for responsible public expression would fail to seek out examples of success that bloom in the shadow of its plant.

Before blaming the debaters, consider the circumstances they face — exhaustion and hours of travel (sometimes days) after the event, limited university assistance and the desire to avoid looking like egomaniacs or braggarts. They know the public has no interest, so they neglect to put the information before the editor's eyes.

The debate team, though, should certainly assume the responsibility of lobbying on its own behalf. Scholastic sports have benefited from this strategy, and debate should follow that lead.

In the final analysis, however, it is

letters to the editor

All contributions should be delivered to 114 Journalism Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 40506. The *Kentucky* reserves the right to edit for grammar and clarity and to eliminate libelous material, and may condense or reject contributions.

Creation vs. Evolution

The teaching of the theory of evolution is one of the cruellest hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men and women.

The General Theory of Evolution, the theory that all living things have arisen by naturalistic, mechanistic processes from a single primeval cell, which in turn had arisen by similar processes from a dead, inanimate world, has been dogmatically taught in the classroom for decades as undisputed fact. July 21, 1925 at Dayton, Tennessee, the setting for the now-infamous Scopes Monkey Trial, was the day that evolutionary theory "came of age" in spite of a substantial lack of weighty scientific evidence. As D.M.S. Watson, himself a committed evolutionist, put it, "The theory of evolution itself is a theory universally accepted not because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true but because the only alternative, Special Creation, is clearly incredible."

Further indication that the theory of evolution is on shaky ground was apparent at the recent meeting in Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History. There, 160 of the world's top paleontologists, population geneticists, embryologists, molecular biologists, and geologists gathered to discuss a possi-

years may pass with no changes in the gene's structure (in the form of its successors). However, when changes do occur in the gene (mutation), the net effect is harmful and many times lethal.

In spite of this, evolutionists claim that a small fraction (say one in 10,000) of these mutations net a beneficial result. According to Dr. Duane Gish, who has spent 18 years in biomedical and biochemical research at Cornell University Medical College, these claims are made not because of empirical evidence, but because evolutionists know that unless favorable mutations do occur, evolution is impossible. The significance of this statement is realized as one considers the fact that in the end, all evolution is attributed to mutation.

In reality, mutations offer a perfect illustration of the second law of thermodynamics, which says in essence that the natural tendency of all change is to create a greater degree of disorder and randomness. This would mean that the overall direction of change of a biological "kind" would be deteriorative rather than developmental. This is evident not only in the case of present genetic changes, but also in those evidences that have been cited in favor of past evolutionary changes. For example, the evidence of vestigial organs is often cited as an argument for evolution. But it is immediately evident that the loss of organs through disuse is an illustration of deterioration.