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**Maudie's Naughties**



**A Day at the Track**

A group of elementary students, accompanied by two female teachers, go on a field trip to the local race track to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry. When it is time to take the children to the toilet, it is decided that the girls will go with one teacher and the boys will go with the other.

The teacher assigned to the boys is waiting outside the men's room when one of the boys comes out and tells her that none of them can reach the urinal. Having no choice, she goes inside and begins hoisting the little boys up by their arm pits, one by one. As she lifts one, she can't help but notice he's a little more mature than the other boys.

Trying not to show that she is staring, the teacher says, "You must be in the 5th."

"No, ma'am," he replied. "I'm in the 7th, riding Silver Arrow, but thanks for the lift."

**New Trainee**

A man who was unemployed for several months ... gets a job with Public Works painting lines down the center of rural roads. The supervisor tells him he is on probation and that he must stay at or above the set average of 2 miles per day to remain employed. The man agrees to the conditions and starts the next day.

The supervisor checks and finds the man completed 4 miles. "Great," he thought, "this man will work out." The next day he finds the man only did 2 miles but the supervisor thought, "well he is still at the average and I don't want him to get discouraged."

The third day however the man only did one mile and the Boss thought, "I need to talk to him." The boss pulls the new employee in and says, "Son, you were doing great. The first day you did four miles and the second day two miles, but yesterday you only did one mile. Why? Is there a problem? An injury, equipment failure, anything keeping you from meeting the two mile minimum?"

The man replied, "I keep getting farther and farther from the bucket."

**Needing Curtains**

"Ma," says Pa. "You need to put up a new curtain on the window in our bedroom, the one that faces the road."

"Why's that, Pa?"

"Well, that curtain's so worn out you can 'bout see through it. The other day I noticed some women walking by and staring at the window while I was changing my clothes."

"I wouldn't worry about that, Pa. They won't look but once!"

"But if they get a look at my magnificent physique, it'll ruin them for other men."

"They get a look at you, Pa, I'd be more worried they'd be ruined for **all** men!"

**Guided Tour**

A young American tourist goes on a guided tour of a creepy old European castle. At the end of the tour the guide asks her how she enjoyed it. She admits to being a bit worried about seeing a ghost in some of the dark cobwebby rooms and passages.

"Don't worry," says the guide. "I've never seen a ghost all the time I've been here." "How long is that?" asks the girl.

"About three hundred years..."

**Last Words**

Farmer Luke is on his deathbed. His children and grandchildren are all gathered around him in his final moments. Trying to make him comfortable, they offer him a half glass of warm milk from the farm, but he refuses. One of his nieces takes the glass back to the kitchen where she fills it to the top with Irish whiskey. She returns to his bedside and holds the glass up to his lips. He tastes of it and drinks a little, then he drinks more. Eventually, he drinks the entire contents of the glass.

"Father," one of his sons pleads, "Please give us some words of wisdom before you go."

The old man raises himself up in the bed with a very stern look on his face and says, "Don't sell that cow."

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** from Representative Bill Wesley

**Interim Week in Review: Unemployment Insurance continues to dominate**

We can all agree that our current labor shortage has to be addressed if we are going to grow our economy and make a successful comeback. After all, there are more than a hundred thousand available jobs across our state. While some are entry level positions, many pay far more than minimum wage and include benefits and incentive packages. However, like many of you, I am completely floored by the \$1,500 per person return-to-work incentive created by the Governor. Using taxpayer money, even if it is federal funding, to pay people to get a job is simply not logical. It is insulting to those who have worked throughout this pandemic, including many on the front lines.

To compound the problem, the Governor still refuses to end Kentucky's participation in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program, which provides an additional \$300 a week to UI recipients who are already receiving benefits from the state program. Other states have already quit offering PUA payments, but the Governor seems committed to continuing until the program ends in September. So, ultimately, the administration is offering \$1,500 to go to work, while paying more than \$3,300 to stay at home.

The Governor's return-to-work announcement came just two days after members of the Unemployment Insurance Task Force held their first meeting to explore possible changes to the program. This task force was created with the passage of HB 413, legislation that contained several provisions aimed at improving how the unemployment insurance (UI) program responds in situations like last year's shutdown. Task force members will spend the next seven months listening to stakeholders and crafting recommendations that may become legislation during the 2022 Regular Session.

The task force hit the ground running this month, hearing testimony about fraudulent claims and other issues plaguing the system. This was particularly interesting to me as I have heard from several constituents who received notification that their information has been used to file for unemployment insurance, while they personally have not applied. While the number of fraudulent claims in Kentucky remains a mystery, a consultant dealing with unemployment insurance claims testified that the increase in claims caused by the state's shutdown led program administrators to make premature eligibility determinations, which made the program more susceptible to fraudulent claims.

Legislators on the task force also asked for more information about existing unprocessed claims.

When asked how many remained to be addressed, the administration could provide no concrete number. However, after spending \$17 million in contracts to fix the unemployment backlog, the problem remains more than a year later and Labor Cabinet officials are still saying they need additional staff. Ironically, cabinet officials added that one of the biggest challenges facing the UI Program now is finding employees. They are not alone, as a representative of the state's organization representing small businesses shared that a recent survey showed 90 percent of members have available positions.

Without a doubt, unemployment insurance issues will continue to dominate the 2021 Legislative Interim and occupy a considerable part of our 2022 Session agenda.

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](mailto:Bill.Wesley@lrc.ky.gov). If you would like more information visit the LRC website [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov).

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