

Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

The Lane Report Selects Olsen as New Editor

ED Lane, publisher of *The Lane Report*, named Andy Olsen as the magazine's managing editor on July 1. Olsen will oversee all news and editorial operations of the monthly business publication.



Andy Olsen

Olsen has written about business, religion and immigration for newspapers around the country. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and *The Washington Times*, as well as an Ecuadorian newspaper, *Diario Expreso*.

A long-time resident of Kentucky, Olsen studied in both Central and South America and earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish at Asbury College. He lives with his wife in Lexington.

Welcome to America, Have a Cow

HERE'S an idea to make any beef-industry lobbyist salivate: Forget the INS, or even the FBI. An anonymous joke circulating around the Internet suggests the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be the best-equipped federal agency to curb illegal immigration into the country.

After the first case of mad cow-infected beef was discovered in America last year, USDA officials traced the meat to a specific cow from a farm in a small town near Yakima,

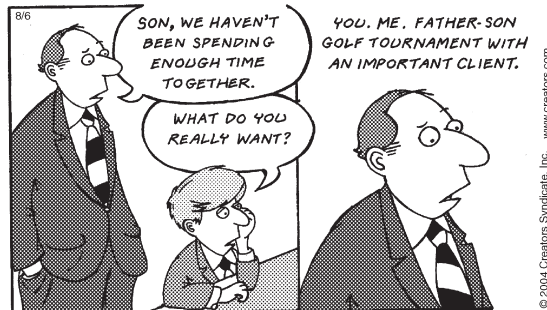
Washington. The cow, they quickly discovered, had been born in Canada nearly three years earlier. Investigators pinpointed exactly what the cow had been eating and where in the stockyard it slept.

So why, despite all our efficiency in tracking Bessie across national borders and the country, couldn't we locate suspicious illegal aliens and poten-



tial terrorists in the same way? The joke's solution? Give every undocumented alien a cow upon entering the country.

CEO Dad BY T. STERN AND C. DARBYSHIRE



No Child Left Behind (For Better or Worse)

IN the wake of the most recent release of school scores under the No Child Left Behind act, we can breathe easier knowing that 15 percent more of state schools are up to par than were last year.

Maybe.

That is, unless you take into account the incomplete data upon which the results were based. Or the fact that Kentucky's standards were slightly higher in the first place than those of other states that showed better results. That's because a state that's raised the bar for itself will have a harder time meeting its own standards.

So perhaps we should still be holding our breath until we figure out what, exactly, the results mean. And there's no telling what they will mean for well-performing schools in the future. Because schools that don't meet the prescribed standards are forced to give their students the option of transferring to better schools, it's not clear what will become of those top-notch student bodies.

After all, the test results are based on student performance. So if a student performs poorly in a school with a sub-par reputation in the first place, how will that student do when moved to another school with even higher expectations?

To apply similar logic, if rotten potatoes were spoiling a certain dish, it wouldn't make sense to mix them in with your favorite dessert in hopes that the potatoes would cease tasting foul.

Unless, of course, you were a bad cook.

Try Fitting That on Letterhead

GOV. Ernie Fletcher's administration may be cutting waste in Frankfort, but not the state's ink usage. Earlier in July, the Kentucky Office for the New Economy was renamed as part of the governor's crusader-like push to promote a new image for Kentucky.

The office's new name: The Economic Development Cabinet's Department of Innovation and Commercialization for the Knowledge-Based Economy.

Jason Keller, the governor's deputy press secretary, said the trendy title better reflected Kentucky's commitment to attract high-tech jobs. But techies be warned: When buying envelopes for correspondence with the new department, make sure they're big enough to accommodate all the government speak.