

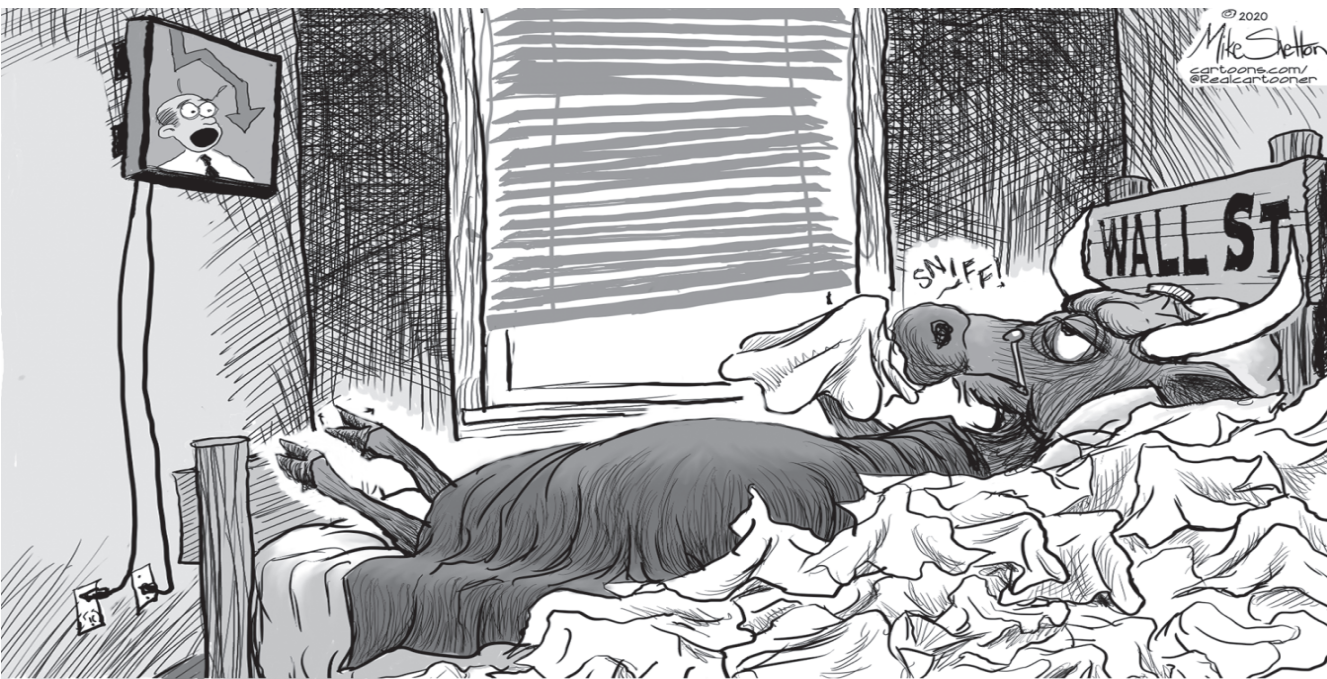
MARCH 4, 2020

Editorial & Opinions ENOUGH

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Spring Rituals



By **JENNIFER MOONSONG**
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Sunday felt a lot like spring.

Fall is my favorite, but spring is a very close second. I love the sensory overload that happens as the earth warmly awakens with all of the sights, sounds and aromas of the season.

Many sources report 2020 as having “the earliest spring in 100 years”, and by all indications, it is true.

The daffodils, known more commonly in these parts as Buttercups, are already flooding roadside gullies, pasture hill-sides and everyplace a house ever stood, in a flurry of yellow blossoms. Looking from a distance, a crimson hue can be seen in the branches as tiny red Maple leaves unfurl into greenness. Centipedes and wildflowers are beginning to move about on the forest floor, beneath last year’s fallen leaves. It’s a beautiful, annual reminder that in the continuing cycles of birth and death, life is eternal.

I have been reading “Daily Rituals: How Artists Work”, and in addition to many other things it has brought to mind how much of life is ritual, and how those rituals are innately tethered to the seasons.

By virtue of how we live today, versus how we used to live generations ago, those rituals may not so closely adhere to the source, but they still exist in some form.

I recall my father talking many times about how his grandmother had certain

rituals that accompanied springtime. Spring cleaning, for example, is still a term commonly used today. It is more of a purging of clutter accumulated through the holiday-laden winter months now, but it still exists.

In the era of my great-grandmother, it was a downright necessity. Homes that used only wood heat, had been closed up through the winter to keep the warm and in and the cold out. Floors were covered with dust and wood chips, walls were sooty, windows, dusty and bleak and curtains were heavy with the weight of wood smoke. Spring cleaning meant finally having days warm enough to open the doors and widows for an “airing out”, to hang the rugs on the clothesline and beat them with wire rug beaters and to take the washboard out on the porch.

My father also spoke often about my great-grandmother’s spring ritual of picking the first dandelion greens, creasy greens, and other wild greens that grow at the first sign of spring, to cook and eat. It was a spring cleaning of sorts for the body, as was the making of dandelion root tea. All of this, decades upon decades ahead of the popular modern day Detox Teas and Body Cleanse products found in every store.

As springs come and go, I hope that we do not only hold onto rituals but take the time to remember the roots of the ritual, so that they do not become hollow pastimes, but actions that tie the human race together, with meaning.

Jennifer Moonsong has been a journalist in South Central Kentucky for 12 years. She serves as the General Manager for the Metcalfe County and Monroe County, and is a regional features writer.

Letter to the Editor

HB 484

A bill recently introduced in the General Assembly would reorganize Kentucky Retirement Systems. Proponents say HB 484 is needed to address a perceived lack of representation for the County Employees Retirement System, one of three systems under the umbrella of KRS. KRS is overseen by a 17-member board.

HB 484 creates a new, duplicative bureaucracy. It establishes a CERS board and another board to represent the Kentucky Employees and State Police systems. This will mean duplicate expenditures to hire another group of auditors, investment consultants and actuaries. Investment and custodial fees to manage separate fund portfolios will increase. Chief executive officers would be hired for each of the two boards. The total price tag is estimated at \$3.6 million to \$6.7 million.

An argument can be made that the current board is top heavy with gubernatorial trustees. A simple fix would be to do nothing more than change the board’s representation. No muss, no fuss, and no spending millions of dollars for a system that needs to hold on to every nickel to ensure fiscal stability.

HB 484 should be defeated, and a more practical approach to board representation should be explored by all affected stakeholder groups.

Jim Carroll
President Kentucky
Government Retirees

Letter to THE EDITOR

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