

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves

Zi Graves • 1913-2002

By Polly Abney

As many of you know, Zi Graves passed away on July 24, 2002. This last column will be a tribute to her and to you, her faithful readers.

Over the last couple years, there were times that Mom felt like stopping her writing of Sweet and Sour, but the devotion of her readers kept her at her word processor. No matter where she would venture in Mt. Vernon or surrounding areas there would be someone commenting on her writings and giving her encouragement to continue (almost demanding it). Mom received letters, phone calls, and even visits from people she had not previously met wanting to talk to her about one of more of the Sweet and Sour articles. All this gave her the encouragement and drive she needed to continue. She loved writing and sharing her thoughts with all of you. Thank you for being such loyal readers and friends.

Her last complete article was about all the "angels" that she had met during this summer's ordeal of sickness and hospitalization. Even though Mom had some very rough and tough times the last couple of months, God gave her the insight to recognize the goodness in people and through that insight she received many blessings. She seemed to be more at peace and happier the last several weeks of her life than she had in years. Her smile would just melt your heart and her attitude was contagious. So even though we will all miss her greatly, she is now at peace and in Heaven surrounded by angels.

Mom enjoyed listening to good music and one of her favorite songs was "Stepping on the Clouds" being

sung by the SonShine Boys. The week before she died, Mom finally realized the importance of the song to her. It took faith to step on clouds. Just days before she died, Mom had begun two more articles. The following two paragraphs are the beginnings of those unfinished articles. As you can see, she had gotten tired and stopped in mid-sentence but that just gives each of you the opportunity to finish these yourselves. All of you know her writing style, so you may finish each article the way you think she intended it to be finished.

Sweet & Sour

By: Zi Graves

Just put out of reach. Have you ever been in a place where everything you need was just out of reach? Since I have been bedfast for these couple weeks I have learned a lot about being unable to do for myself what was always instinct. It can be a frustrating situation to reach for the light switch and find it is one inch beyond your finger tip. No matter how you squirm and stretch you can't touch the switch. Finally, in a rather weak voice, you will ask for someone to please turn the light off. As the light is turned out the book you were reading falls to the floor. Oops there goes my book, that's o.k. though for I know I

Sweet & Sour

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Stepping on the clouds is like taking hold of God knowing HE IS ALWAYS REACHING OUT. Faith is the act of stepping on a featherly bit of gossamer in space with no supports knowing the gossamer will not disappear nor the supports fail. Your goal is just over the horizon,

Relay for Life

Richard
Anderkin
Editor
Mount Vernon
Signal

An American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be held on Friday at the Rockcastle County Middle School.

Local organizers have put a lot of effort into getting the first Relay, started.

Cancer has touched so many lives, nearly every family in this county has had some type of experience with it.

In 1976 my grandfather Murphy, only 68-years-old, died of lung cancer when he was Sara's fifth birthday.

Needless to say, Sara never really knew her grandfather and Travis and Allison came along after he was gone, so they got cheated as well.

I was lucky because I had gotten the privilege of knowing him and like most grandchildren, I certainly admired, respected and loved him.

Grandpa was a hard worker and a man who loved his children and grandchildren. Cancer was cruel to him and his family because he had all of the systems of pneumonia and that is what doctors treated him for, for several weeks, before they diagnosed him with cancer.



He suffered through the chemotherapy, only to succumb to the disease a few months later. As so many know, he was so sick during his treatments that he had no quality of life.

Just as Ms. Eva Sparks, who is a cancer survivor, told me this week, everyone should have regular check-ups and don't take your health for granted because you never know when the horrible disease will strike you.

To all the people who have obviously worked very hard on this project congratulations, and to all cancer survivors another congratulations.

Ms. Zi Graves died last week. She was a columnist for this publication for many years and she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Zi, as we called her, was a strong, willful, independent woman, who did not care to express her opinion to whomsoever would listen or read.

She really enjoyed writing Sweet and Sour and we appreciate the time and effort she put into it.

We didn't always agree on matters, but early on I realized that I probably wasn't going to win any of those battles and I respected her opinion and her thoughts and I was always taught to respect my elders.

This statement is getting old, because it is a direct reflection of the number of deaths lately, but our thoughts are with Ms. Zi's family.

Points
East
By:
Ike Adams

Normally I write this column on Monday nights. But it's late on this muggy, 94 degree, Saturday afternoon and on Monday and Tuesday I have to go through some rigorous tests to see how the medical profession can get the rocks out of my kidneys that seem to be trying to come through of their own. I'm not sure I'll be able to write on Monday.

It's not so much because I procrastinate on the deadline (I do that too, from time to time) as trying to keep whatever I'm writing reasonably current. There's also something good to be said for spontaneity and simply getting things off one's mind or chest right then that appeals to me and I don't, personally, have any problem with folks flying off the handle. I actually enjoy being around folks who are upset when they are being messed over.

It's true that I often write inflammatory, knee-jerk opinions that get in print and cause hard feelings and certainly do nothing to advance my cause or argument. The better way, I'm told by friends and readers, is to be diplomatic and well-reasoned as opposed to ranting and raving.

The truth of the matter is that I am not good at diplomacy. The other truth is that unless folks get angry to the point of near-violence, change does not happen nearly as quickly as it should. Sometimes a Joe Begley has to stand in the road with a shotgun and confront the strip miners. Sometimes an old lady has to lie down in front of a bulldozer and demand that she be crushed before they strip her land and then, and only then, do you get laws passed that outlaw the broad form deed.

The fact of the matter is that Kentucky does not have a budget right now because a Legislature far more interested in the personal and political agendas of its individual members than the common good "represents" the rest of us in Frankfort. And it is not unreasonable for us to be mad

about that. There is nothing representative about state government in Kentucky unless you are a big road contractor or insurance company or predatory lender or any other entity with shrimp and whiskey to fill their bellies or cold hard cash to slip into a legislator's pocket who will protect and assure that your particular scam remains "legal".

I certainly do not feel represented in Frankfort and if you are not personally the beneficiary of a kickback, or some other special favor from a legislator, you should not either.

Perhaps the day will come when honest, reasonable, tolerant, justice-minded, people will overwhelmingly

run for and be elected to the Kentucky Legislature. There is no incentive to do so now because the power brokers are at large and for every honest man or woman in the Legislature, there are, at least, three others methodically manipulating the system for personal gain without regard to you and me, or for the best interests of the so-called "Commonwealth."

So what to do? I surely do not hold my breath, but until the people who live in this state from Paducah to Pikeville, Covington to Williamsburg get angry enough to make things change, it ain't gonna happen. There's not an example in history of diplomacy winning out corruption. Nor is there any example of legislating common sense.

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"What Saith the Scriptures"

Jesus was asked this question, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Matt. 19:3b. They did not ask: Do people divorce for every cause? The answer then, as now, would be yes. The question is, is it lawful, is it right to divorce for every cause. The answer Jesus gave in verse 9 states, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Thus Jesus said that there is just one cause for divorce and remarriage, and that is the cause of fornication. To divorce and marry another, for every other cause, is without lawful ground in the sight of God. Jesus said those who do such commit adultery in this relationship. "Whosoever shall put away his wife...and shall marry another, committeth adultery." John the Baptist said to Herod, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." Mk. 6:18. It cost him his head, for boldly proclaiming the truth. But to compromise and say anything else would not have helped anyone. And repentance is the solution to the sin of adultery, Luke 13:3; Acts 12:30.

Providence church of Christ

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