

## Would Kansas voters choose to limit government growth?

We're starting to hear in Kansas about something called TABOR, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

It's a scheme for limiting the growth of government, first applied in Colorado. Some people would like to try it here.

A lot of people would hate to see it tried here, but most of them are dining at the state's table.

The idea is controversial. Opponents say it has hamstrung Colorado government. Others say that might not be such a bad idea.

We can tell you from experience, though, that property taxes are lower in Colorado, sometimes less than half what they are in Kansas.

Roads are better today than what they were when TABOR came into being.

City, county and school governments function as usual. Students are taught. Streets are cleaned. Sewers run. Roads are graded.

Kansas government has grown like a mushroom in the last 45 years. Kansas taxes have kept pace.

Maybe some limits are in order.

We've been saved from major tax increase by a conservative majority in the Legislature, but there's no saying it'll always be that way.

Opponents of tax limits say they haven't worked well in Colorado, especially when the economy went down. But all states were in a squeeze then. So were taxpayers.

Kansas sponsors say they see the problems with the Colorado law, and know how to avoid them.

There are as many pressure groups pushing for bigger state government as there are state programs. No one really lobbies for the taxpayers in Topeka, but every state program has its lobby.

Some, like schools, have three or four.

All these groups hate tax limits. They represent public employees, public officials, social services clients and a host of others who suck tax money out of the state coffers.

That money comes from all of us.

We're not saying the state has no needs.

We are saying the state could use some limits.

And this idea is worth looking at.

In Colorado, by the way, the Legislature never would pass a bill instituting tax and budget limits.

There was a petition drive. The TABOR measure had to go to the voters as a constitutional amendment. They saw the logic, even if their representatives did not.

What would happen if Kansas voters got a chance to pass on something like this?

We'd like to see.

— Steve Haynes

### WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### Woman disagrees with columnist on Schaivo case

Dear Editor:  
In response to Mary Kay Woodward's editorial on Terry Schaivo. Thank God we have a President and Congress who believe in life because we sure can't trust these so-called judges who make up their own rules.  
As for President Bush and his belief for

capital punishment — that has absolutely nothing to do with keeping an innocent person alive. Terry can talk, laugh and respond to people. She is not dying or terminally ill; she is not brain dead or in a coma. She is not on a heart pump, breathing machine or any kind of medication. All she needs is food just like you and I.

Terry is otherwise a healthy, mentally disabled woman.

As far as her marriage is concerned, Michael Schaivo has been living with another woman for years, has two children with her and for some reason wants Terry dead.

Hmm, could it be the insurance money he has on her?

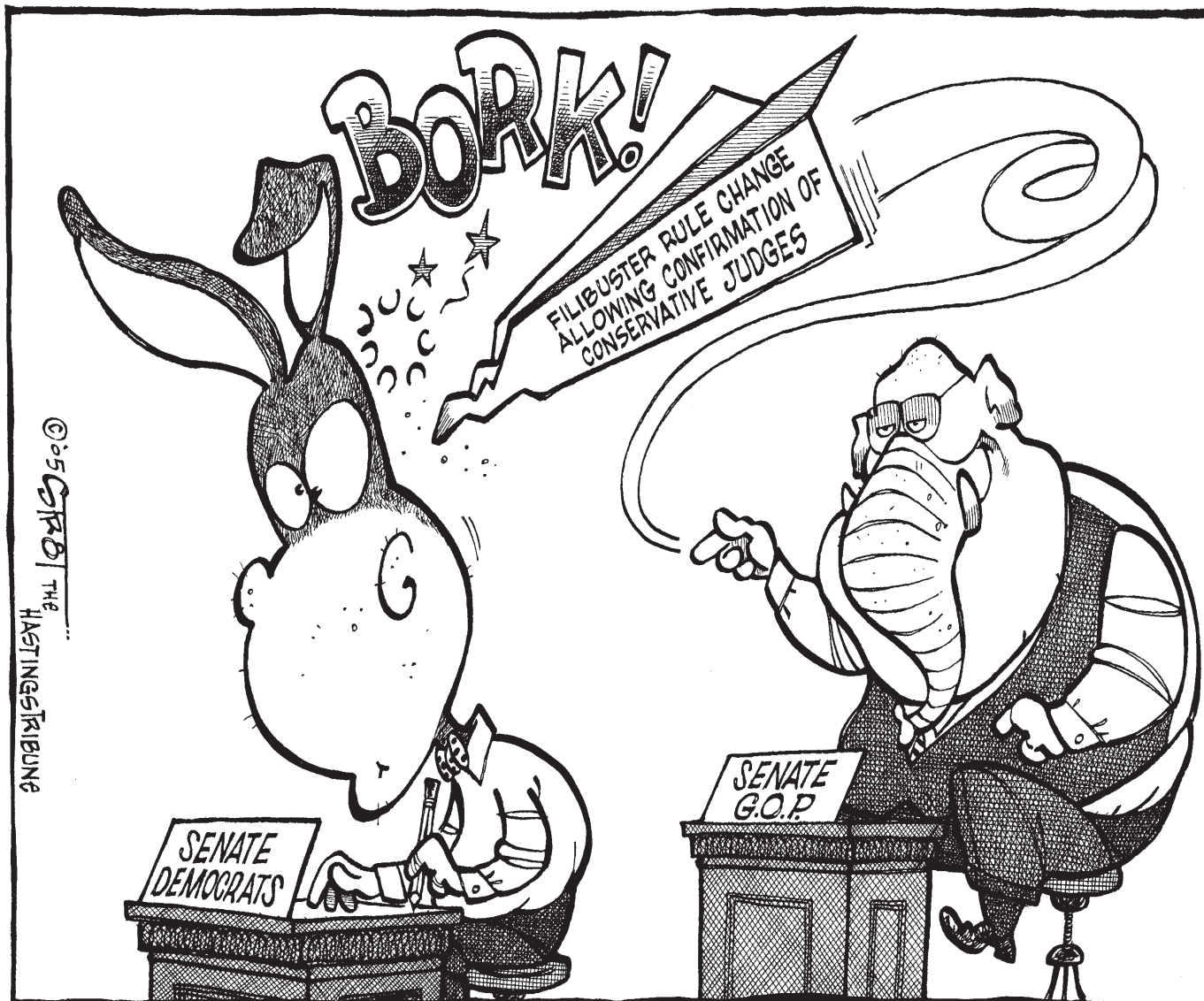
He has gone to every measure to deny her any and all forms of therapy the last 13 years. I'm sure I'd want a husband like this looking after my best interests.

Also, be careful to say that anyone living in this way only has hope in death. The sanctity of life IS NOT determined by the quality of it. If these people are allowed to starve to death an innocent woman, where will it end? Paraplegics, mentally handicapped, and the elderly are not far off if we don't stop this insanity.

One more thing — our country was not founded on individualism or tolerance. It was founded on Christian biblical principles and God values ALL life.

Another important issue: Vote YES on April 5 for the Marriage Amendment to protect the institution of marriage between one man and one woman! Without this proposition, marriage could be redefined by the legislature or activist judges. Please get out and vote.

Stacy Richmond  
Norton, Kan.



## Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man...

Every now and then I get the "baking bug," and this Saturday past was one of those days.

I had apples setting on the counter that were approaching the "use 'em or lose 'em" stage. Since we don't have chickens anymore, it really pains me to throw food away. When the hens were here, even if something "went bad," you didn't feel too guilty, because they could "recycle" everything back into something usable, like eggs.

We got home late Friday night, but I set out my supplies and mixed up the dry ingredients for pie. Half the battle is getting started.

Up before six on Saturday, I had a pie baking by 6:30 a.m. When Jim awoke, to the aroma of apple pie, it seemed to whet his appetite because he said, "Breakfast burritos sound good this morning."

I thought they sounded good, too. Except for one thing. There were no flour tortillas in the house. Not one.

Have no fear. The Internet is here. A quick search online produced a simple

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



recipe. And after watching women in Mexico make tortillas, I determined I could handle it. Flour, baking powder, salt, oil and milk are the only ingredients. A little kneading, a few minutes rest (the dough, not me), and I was ready to roll out tortillas.

Jim was enlisted to bake them on the griddle and we soon had an assembly line going. I will never win a prize for "the fastest tortilla roller-outer," but as far as taste was concerned, they could hold their own. I may never go back to store-bought tortillas.

The day was not even a third over and I had already completed two "Susie Home-

maker" projects. I was on a roll.

Recently, I have been involved with a mentoring program called "Apples of Gold". Mature women from our church have partnered with younger women to learn about and practice cooking and entertaining skills. Guess which group I'm in.

Anyway, each lesson addresses some basic cooking techniques and culminates with a meal. One of my favorite desserts was creme brulee. For some reason, Saturday seemed like the perfect time to try it. I had plenty of cream (the real heavy whipping kind) and eggs on hand.

Creme brulee is served in many finer restaurants. Usually, the crunchy topping is prepared tableside by a French waiter with an attitude, using a blow torch to melt the brown sugar.

I achieved the same results with the oven broiler, even though it lacked some of the ambiance.

This is the most heavenly dessert, but it should come with a warning label: "Apply directly to thighs and massage well."

## Technology is amazing, yet frustrating

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



Information technology is both a great thing and a greatly annoying thing.

At times I have thought I would have given my first born just to get to talk to an actual person rather than listen to one more automated answering system.

But pretty soon I'd be trading in the second and then the third. Then I'd be out of kids and I wouldn't have any more tech support for the computer.

Information — I used to think it didn't really have that much impact on the everyday lives of most people on the planet earth.

In the last century I think it was revolutionary to a Kansas housewife that she could wash her clothes in an automatic washer versus the creek bed. Using a telephone or a computer takes a poor second in my mind.

In my Grandma's lifetime the Wright Brothers made the first flight and Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Wow!

I guess I have always been a little disappointed because I watched the Jetsons growing up and my life didn't end up being anything like that. (I want one of those cars!)

I suppose my life could be more like the Jetsons if I'd get over the idea that I need to cook. It just astounds me that they sell bacon precooked. But still the house needs to be cleaned and the lawn needs mowed.

Then there is the laundry. I seem to remember an idea of paper clothes back in

the 60s. Whatever happened to that?

Recent events have made me realize; information does make a difference.

I watch the news and am amazed to see the movement toward democracy in the Middle East. The pundits all want their side to get the credit but when it gets to the bottom line they mostly end up agreeing the reason for the changes is information.

No matter who you are or what you do — you can't hide it.

And once it's out there others are going to say, "Hey — we should do that, that's a really good idea."

Or maybe they will say, "that is abhorrent and has to be stopped now".

The interesting thing is that good ideas seem to lack borders and transcend things like religion, culture and history.

There is a quote I like, "We are all in this together. What I lack, you lack. What causes me pain will eventually cause you pain."

Technology makes it easy to see the disparities. It opens the minds of the haves and hopefully inspires them to find ways to spread the wealth.

It allows the have-nots to see what they might gain with a free and open society. They can make up their minds without having the information skewed by their government or religious leaders.

Certainly developing countries and countries under dictatorships do not have the technology we have in the U.S. But don't underestimate its power.

What an exciting world we live in.

And, as we sit here trying to get our messages off the cell phone the Hubby and I agree: — the greatest fringe benefit of the changes brought about by global technology is surely somewhere in the world there is bound to be someone who can write an owner's manual we can understand.

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