

## Tax money shouldn't be used to sue state

Though they claim they don't have enough money to educate their children, greedy mid-size school districts have spent more than \$2 million in tax money suing the state in the last few years. And they're not done yet.

Now these districts, led by Salina and Dodge City, are demanding that the state Supreme Court take over the school system and pump an extra billion dollars into public education.

No one is saying where this money will come from, but that is pretty easy to figure out. In effect, these districts are using our money to sue us for more.

The Legislature really needs to put a stop to this. If people in these school districts want to sue, they ought to raise the money. It shouldn't be legal to spend state tax money to sue the state. It's hard to see why this kind of behavior has been allowed at all. At the core of the problem is the belief that, if you don't like the way things turn out, it's OK to sue.

Under our system, the governor proposes a budget. The Legislature is supposed to decide how to spend state money. The Legislature is supposed to decide how much to tax us.

Not the courts. Not a handful of school districts that feel slighted because their neighbors get more per pupil under the complicated state funding formula.

And the Legislature is supposed to decide what school districts can and cannot do with state tax money. Courts are supposed to interpret the law, not make it.

It's a safe bet that taxpayers didn't intend for school districts to be able to use their money to sue the Legislature. We sort of thought that money was for teachers, classrooms, books and the like.

When it became OK to use tax money to sue the state using tax money, we're not sure. It's something the Legislature can and should change, though.

There are other, similar abuses of tax money. School districts, counties, cities, elected officials all use tax money to pay groups that hire lobbyists.

These groups try to influence the Legislature to do what public officials want, and that's not necessarily what taxpayers want. Often, it just costs us money.

Tax money shouldn't be spent to influence decisions in Topeka. Those should be decided by legislators, taking into account the wishes of their bosses — the taxpayers — and no one else.

Public officials should not be allowed to take our money and sue our state or influence our Legislature.

It's time for this stuff to stop. — Steve Haynes

## More identified in old football photo

The *Telegram* has received more suggested names of the unidentified players in the 1939 Norton Community High School football picture that was printed in the January 4 issue and again in the March 22 issue.

Jack Ward, who furnished information for the story which ran with the picture on January 4, has looked at the photo again and says he thinks the player without a number who is second from left (sitting beside Jack) on the front row is Eldon

"Rip" VanWinkle.

Ward also says No. 15 on the front row is Vernon Moody, however, someone else called *The Telegram* and left word that they think it is Darrell Bolliger.

Several people have also confirmed that No. 32 in the back row is not Gerald Horning, as had been suggested, but is Forest Michaels.

Thanks to everyone who helped identify the players.

## 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.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

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.

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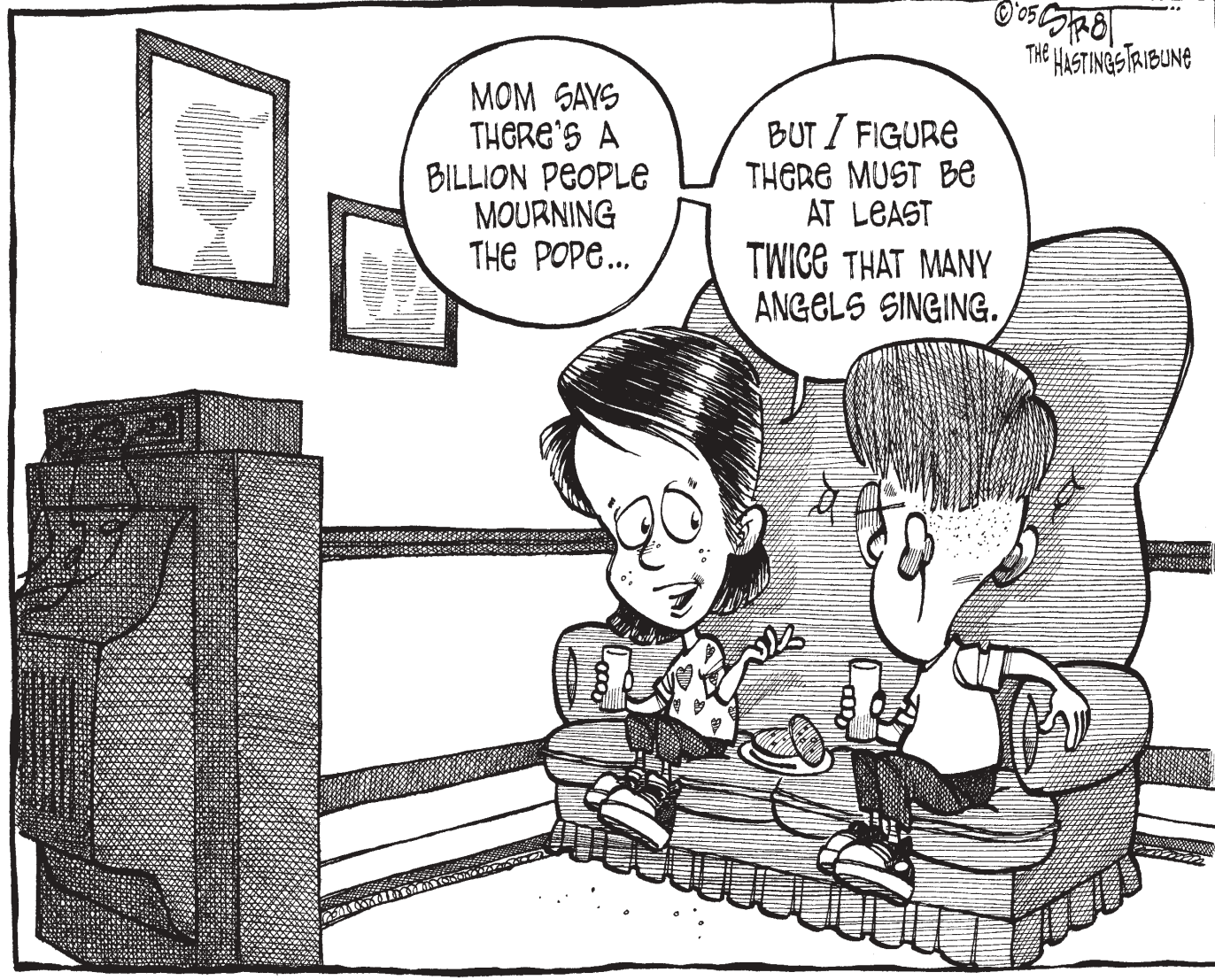
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## Hey, who needs to follow the recipe?

Some cooks follow the recipe precisely. They measure exactly, using a flat edge to level off flour and sugar. Liquid ingredients are measured right down to the last drop.

They even measure the depth of the dough when rolling out biscuits or bread. And, heaven forbid, not having exactly the right ingredients or following the directions to the letter.

I wish I were a little more that way. But, alas, I tend to be more of a "slap-dash" kind of cook.

Jim was going to a men's prayer breakfast this morning and wanted to take biscuits and gravy. I stay out of his way when he's making gravy, first because he likes to do it, and secondly he, quite frankly, makes better gravy than I do.

We got home late last night, but I wanted to get a head start for this morning. So I found my new biscuit recipe, glanced through it and cut the butter into the dry ingredients, covered the bowl and let it set on the counter. I set out the rolling pin, another bowl for the liquid ingredients and a cookie sheet, so I would be ready to go this morning.

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



It was a very early breakfast and we had to allow for drive time, so we set the alarm for 5 a.m. While I was waiting for the coffee to brew, I decided to read the recipe more thoroughly.

Wait, I didn't see this last night. Buttermilk. I didn't have buttermilk.

And what's this? Chill the dough for two hours before baking. I was going to be doing good just to get done in 30 minutes, let alone two hours.

Too late to worry about it now. The biscuits were made with plain old milk and they barely cooled to room temperature before they were popped into the oven.

But, you know what? They were pretty good biscuits anyway. I'll have to try them "the right way" some-

time, and see if I can improve on them.

—ob—

We took a mini-vacation this weekend. We drove to Lawrence on Saturday, attended a newspaper event, then spent the evening with Jim and Linda. Of course, we stayed up too late talking and lingered too long over breakfast the next morning. That made us about 10 minutes late getting to church with Bill and Betty in Junction City, but they were still singing when we slid into a pew. Not too many noticed. I hope.

Their church is between ministers right now, so they had a guest preacher from out of town deliver the message. He talked about how the congregation would conduct themselves in "the meantime," until their new preacher arrives in town, ultimately tying the analogy to what we (all of us) will do in "the meantime" before Christ comes again.

Good sermon. Any sermon I remember more than a day is a good sermon. Hopefully, that's one I won't forget. The best sermons, however, are lived, not preached.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### Norton woman disagrees with columnist about ideals

To the Editor:

I have thoroughly enjoyed many of Mary Kay Woodyard's past columns in your paper.

However, some of her recent articles seem to have taken on a tone of promoting tolerance for things I feel should not be tolerated, for instance, the killing of the weak and defenseless as in the Terri Schiavo case.

I did agree with her appreciation of our nation overcoming the fear of electing a Catholic president and including blacks and females in other leadership positions.

She goes on to state that she didn't "know which answers are right and which are wrong, (regarding homosexual marriage and assisted suicide) but I trust in a God and in a people made in His image".

I feel that I do know that these things are intrinsically wrong precisely because of reading God's Word in Scripture.

Regardless, natural law tells us that these things are wrong and should not be tolerated.

How do we know that there is such a thing as natural law? Suppose someone decides to go down the street, and start shooting at people with a gun, just because he feels like it. Any sane person, whether he is Christian, Jewish, atheist, etc, will admit that this is wrong, even without relying on God's law or secular law.

Mary Kay seems to champion "new ideas", "changes", "tolerance" and "being progressive". These things are all good, but liberalism's most powerful ally is the myth of "progress".

She states "physicist Max Planck said that new ideas do not gain acceptance, their opponents merely die out". The late Pope John Paul II had many followers (many of them young people) but there were many who were "opposed" to his

proposed "ancient" beliefs, especially on issues like gay marriage, assisted suicide and the killing of the weak and defenseless.

I certainly don't foresee any of his "ideas" dying out. I choose the word "proposed" because he never imposed his teachings on anyone. He merely proposed certain truths with clarity (would that the secular world could be as "non-impositional").

Today, many in this country try to impose the attractiveness of choice as the highest moral good, especially through the court system.

I prefer to put choice in its place by quoting Pope John Paul II; "True freedom is not to do what you like, but the freedom to do what you ought".

Catherine A. Lentz  
Norton

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