



Government to blame for graduates' debt load

College students have fallen into the sweet trap of ever-increasing student loans.

Many finish an undergraduate degree with \$60,000 or more of debt. Many of those will never be able to repay their loans, and for those who do, the experience will be trying.

Worse yet, Congress keeps encouraging colleges to hike tuition year after year, far beyond the needs of inflation. Every time colleges hike their price, Congress puts more money into student loans.

The result? Why, colleges just hike tuition prices again. There is no incentive for them to hold rates down, not as long as the feds keep dumping money into student loans.

And so college salaries keep going up along with the tuition, states continue to cut their support for higher education and more and more students graduate with degrees that won't allow them to repay their loans.

You could call it a scam. It is sort of a giant Ponzi scheme where no one ever really comes out whole.

Who pays for all this? You do, of course, with your tax dollars.

Sure, some students will repay their loans. The government will get its money out of others through seizing tax refunds and like tactics. But someone has to pay the difference.

That would be you, Mr. Taxpayer.

Parents and students who pay their own way, rather than using loans, pay a big price, too. Tuition is far higher today than it would be if the government had held the line somewhere on student loans.

Colleges and universities eventually will pay the price when the scheme collapses and they realize

no one can afford to go to college anymore.

It's also true that some students graduate with degrees that will allow them a lucrative income. Medical students, for instance, can expect a six-figure income out of school, but they face eight years of classroom work and maybe three of internship and residency, often more.

They may graduate with a quarter million dollars in debt, some even more. Even on what a doctor can make, it will take a long time to repay those loans.

Somewhere, we need to reintroduce a dose of common sense into Washington. It's not likely to happen in this, an election year, however.

President Obama has students all lathered up over a pending hike in student-loan interest. They're protesting a lifetime cost increase of \$1,000, a pittance compared to the cost of tuition inflation over the last 10 years.

And the president says those mean ol' Republicans want the poor students to go without.

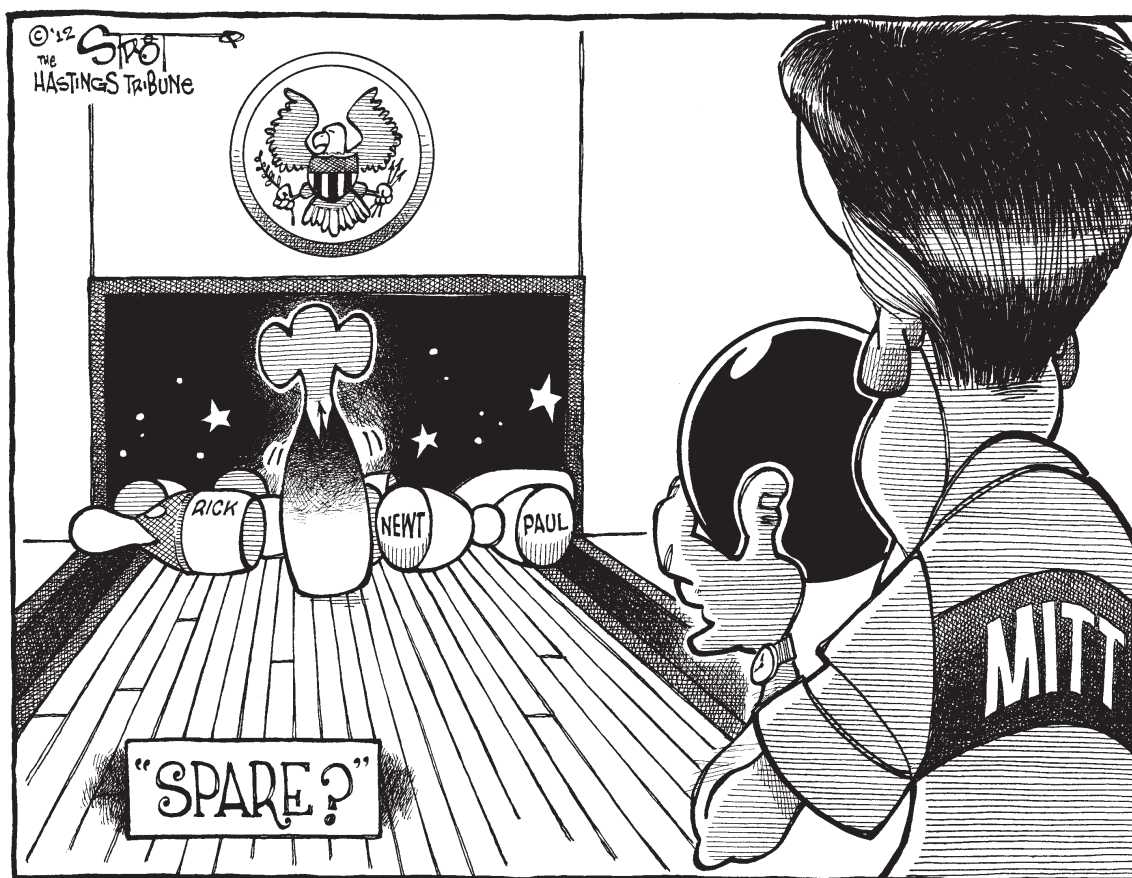
The truth is, as usual, both parties have been at fault in this scam. The president is just playing his cards where and when he can. Many college kids will vote for him.

And as long as that kind of thing is possible, busting the budget for a few votes, we'll have a spending problem in Washington.

It's not that we shouldn't have student loans — there is a need and a place for the program — but that we shouldn't allow a good program which helps some people drive up the cost of an education for them and everyone else.

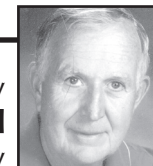
Or allow federal money to be used to buy votes.

— Steve Haynes



Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

I had the opportunity to serve on my first Omnibus session the third week of April. The Appropriations Committee returned to Topeka to review the final budget and make adjustments based on economic forecasts, current revenues and the total amount awarded the state from the tobacco lawsuit settlement.

The state's forecast and revenues are much better. Two years ago, we were \$550 million in debt and now we are predicted to have a \$600 million ending balance. It is hard to believe, but even with the aircraft industry layoffs, there have been 22,000 new jobs created in Kansas over the past two years.

supports are saving the state money in the long run; and it is not taking taxpayers' dollars to maintain them.

What was made very clear in Appropriations was that it was the Supreme Court who gave the furloughs to district judges and clerks—not the Legislature. Chief Justice Lawton Nuss announced that he is delaying, but not cancelling, the next two furlough days. We will be done with the budget by then and, hopefully, he will then cancel the rest of the furlough days.

I attempted to reinstate the market pay package for our state employees, especially those who work in the prison system, and we were voted down 11-8. The announcement of several jail breaks in Kansas has got the governor's attention. He has said that we need to give greater priority to our prison system.

I have visited several prisons in the last two years and realize there are many prisoners that we don't want out on our streets. The key

to any well-run business is strong leadership and good employees. The state just can't keep telling our employees they are not important.

The Legislature reconvened last Wednesday. The same items I wrote about in the first column in January are still to be decided: the budget, reform of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (no additional updates are on my website), school finance, Medicaid reform and redistricting. In addition, about 100 bills have yet to come out of conference committees.

Add all this up and include an election year for Senate and House members, and there's a lot that's not done. I honestly believe we should be worried not about elections but about doing what is best for all of our constituents.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Maybe it's because my dad was an old destroyer salt in World War II, but I couldn't pass up sharing a great story about Naval vessels.

Soon the U.S.S. Iowa will be moved from Richmond, Va., to become a permanent museum in Los Angeles. The battleship saw action in World War II as well as Korea and Vietnam.

Although it was part of many actions, the chapter I'm speaking of occurred in November of 1943.

A secret mission involved the Iowa taking President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to meet with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Russian Premier Josef Stalin for conferences in Cairo and Tehran. Also aboard the American battleship was Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the head of the Navy, Admiral Ernest J. King.

One of the escorts for the trip was a destroyer, U.S.S. William D. Porter. If you were to look up the term "bad luck" in the dictionary, it could easily have a photo of this ship.

Newly built, the Porter and it's crew first ran into trouble leaving the pier to join the Iowa. One of its anchors dug across the deck of a sister ship tearing railing, life boats, davits and generally mauling it while the anchor sustained a few scratches.

Next, while in formation with the battleship's flotilla, rough seas caused an unsecured depth charge to roll off the Porter. Due to radio silence, once the explosion was noticed the convoy assumed anti-submarine maneuvers in order to avoid being hit by a supposed Nazi sub.

Once the seas calmed down

FDR wanted to see how well the Iowa could defend itself from an air attack. With weather balloons set aloft for target practice, the mock drill began. In the mean time the Porter took the opportunity to run a pretend torpedo run.

Par for the course, the destroyer accidentally shot a live torpedo toward the Commander and Chief along with the pride of the U.S. Navy. With the radio silence still being observed, light signals were attempted to warn the Iowa to take defensive measures. Even this was difficult for the ill-fated crew as the signal came across as "we are backing up at full speed."

When that form of communication did not work, the Porter's radio operator broke orders and silence so the ship could make a hard turn to avoid contact.

The president became aware of the incoming torpedo and asked that his wheel chair be moved to the railing so he could see the "fish" go by. It's said one of his secret service men drew his revolver in order to protect his charge.

The torpedo missed the ship but exploded in its wake. All guns on the Iowa were then trained on the hapless U.S.S. Porter as it was the

source of the suspected assassination attempt.

The Porter and its crew became the only incident of an entire boat's compliment to be arrested and sent to Bermuda for trial. The captain and some officers and sailors were transferred to obscure shore assignments. The torpedo man who failed to disarm the weapon was given 14 years of hard labor, which was later rescinded by the president.

Naval command figured the safest place to send the U.S.S. Porter was the Aleutian Islands of Alaska where nothing was really happening. But eventually the ship and crew were allowed to participate, and distinguish themselves, in the Pacific Theater.

The ship was lost when a Japanese kamikaze plane missed the Porter but floated and exploded directly under the unusual destroyer.

But before that happened, whenever the vessel entered a harbor with American ships the other crews would send out the greeting, "Don't shoot, we're Republicans!"

Silly farming regulation is dropped

Letter to the editor,

How about the farm chore uproar? Thank goodness enough people got up in arms and the government dropped the silly regulation to tell farmers and ranchers how to raise their kids. The reason farm kids grow up to be responsible, hard working adults is that a family that works and plays together makes a strong family unit.

It just points out the facts about President Obama's big government. They want to control every aspect of our lives and they can't even come up with a balanced budget!

President Obama and his administration decided they needed

Letter to the Editor

to come up with a distraction after their attack on our freedom of religion; "Republicans wage war on woman." Ms. Kluge who has close ties to the white house, talked to congress about the outrageous amount of money she spends on contraceptives. The truth is that college students get them free on campus. You can get them free from family planning or other services at discount prices. There is no crisis that I know of, just the president trying to get votes from the women of America. It takes attention away from the real problem, "the governments' wage of war on

Christians and our freedom of religion."

It's like the Trayvon Martin killing. Instead of letting justice play out and getting all the facts, Al Sharpton, Jessie Jackson and the main media stirred up racist riots all across America. The Black Panthers put a bounty on the shooter's head. It's another case of class warfare turning blacks against whites, divide and conquer.

Wake up America to what is going on in the country. Pray for our nation,

Marilyn Frisbie, Bird City

GOD SAYS

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

— II Timothy 3:16

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