

commentary

from other pens...

Lobbyists try to block keg registration bill

The Hays Daily News on keg registration:
Opponents are trying to stymie an effort in the Legislature to register beer kegs aimed at discouraging adults from buying beer for underage drinkers.

The fact that those opponents are distributors and sellers of beer kegs comes as no surprise.

... The bill simply calls for kegs of beer to have a registration number and the person buying the keg to be identified. Then, if police find the keg at a party involving underage drinkers, they can trace the keg to the person who bought it and prosecute.

The Kansas Association of Beverage Retailers simply doesn't want the added responsibility of tracking the sale of beer kegs. ...

The Senate Federal and State Affairs committee endorsed the bill Thursday despite questions from several members.

Amy Campbell, a lobbyist for the group, said underage drinking is a complicated problem and that the bill isn't a solution...

True the availability of liquor is only part of the problem of underage drinking, but it's a pretty substantial one. If there's no liquor available, there's no drinking.

Presumably, if liquor stores are making sure only adults are buying kegs of beer, then the next logical step is targeting adults who buy it and provide it to those who aren't old enough to drink it.

Yes, efforts must continue to encourage young people not to drink and for adults to drink responsibly.

And if the alcoholic beverage industry expects to retain any credibility, it would work with lawmakers to craft an acceptable bill and end the rhetoric that registering beer kegs is a bad thing.

The Ottawa Herald on welfare reform:
The federal government is considering some new tactics to help welfare participants — tactics that some may consider a little too personal.

Conservatives argue that the breakdown of the two-parent family is the root cause of welfare dependency. They believe that fostering a culture of marriage in poor communities can pull some welfare recipients out of the depths of poverty.

Others believe that government promotion of marriage is too intrusive. We agree.

It's been argued that welfare programs ... actually paid recipients more to be a single parent. ...

... Among the ideas being proposed for welfare reform are: requiring states to spend part of their welfare money on pro-marriage activities, encouraging caseworkers to talk to pregnant women about marrying the fathers of their unborn babies and teaching the value of marriage in high school classes. States' success, proponents say, could be judged based on a reduction in out-of-wedlock births, among other methods.

A number of our country's societal problems could be mitigated by encouraging marriage and two-parent families. However, the government can't force welfare recipients to be married, nor should it try to be that moralistic. ...


... Most problems of those living in poverty are much greater than merely whether or not they are married, so this move alone won't get families off the welfare rolls. ...

... The government should stay out of the business of legislating morality.

The Goodland Daily News
(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)
Member: Kansas Press Association
The Associated Press
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com

Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page
Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor
Janet Craft, Society Editor/Reporter
Reporter/Sports
Doug Jackson, Eric Yonkey, Advertising Sales
Susanne Allaman, Adv. Production Debra Turner, Page Prod.
Sheila Smith, Office Manager Pat Schiefen Bookkeeping

Nor'west Press
Jim Bowker, General Manager
Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight Richard Westfahl
Lana Westfahl Betty Morris Helen Dilts

 nwkansas.com

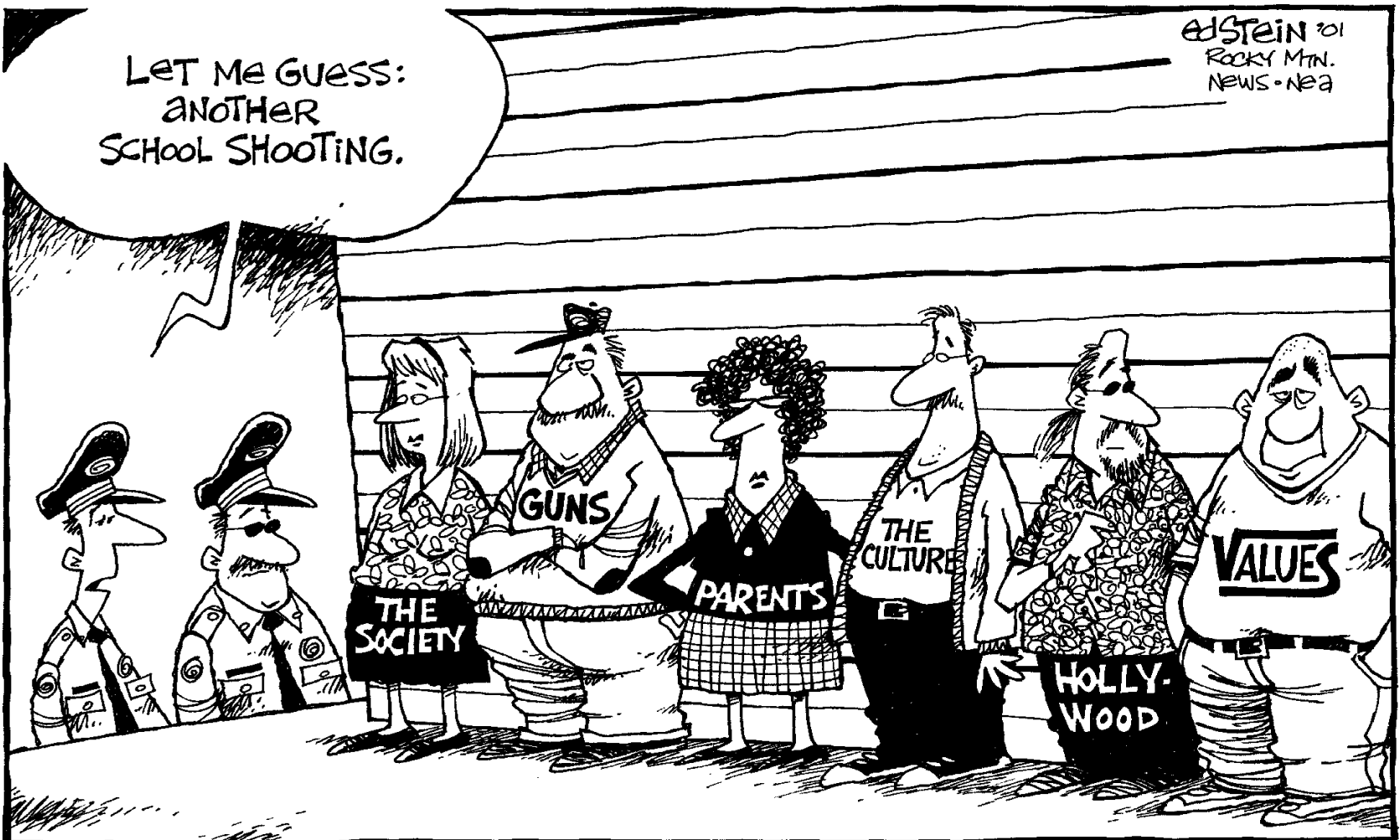
N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.
Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.
TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnav@nwkansas.com
The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$22; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$ 28; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$95. (All tax included.) Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$25; six months, \$40; 12 months, \$75.

Incorporating:
The Sherman County Herald
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company



They're madder than a skin head on Wall Street

Do we need election reform in Florida?
Yup farmers can forget about Cook County too. What they need is election reform at the United States Department of Agriculture. The new big Chiefette of the department has just decided not to count all the votes in the pork checkoff referendum.

What she did was to nullify a vote of independent hog farmers who in a dully accepted voting process rejected a mandatory checkoff (tax) on pork producers. Such a crass act of bureaucratic over kill would make a black share cropper in Mississippi dream of reconstruction.

Following the Civil war the slaves had been freed, but they still lived in the same shanties. They still picked cotton, and some may have been their own. But it was a share cropper's "yal'sir-boss."

Sound like something that had not been inhaled you say? Maybe, but farmers need voting rights reform more than Dade County.

Reconstruction did not give blacks the right to vote, and present anti-trust laws have not given farmers an open and transparent market for their produce. So it's OK to have tax cuts for the people (low farm prices) but farmers you better pay your checkoff taxes.

Such undemocratic conduct is as American as



wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

IBP, Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill.

In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson roared "I have known more ladies in lust by accident than Kennedy had on purpose." He was more successful than President Kennedy when it came to farm legislation too. He used something called fast track when Congress nullified the results of a previously rejected farmer referendum by wheat farmers. Even more so it was the beginning of the Department of Agriculture's free food pentagon too. Farmers traded \$2.00 wheat for \$1.20 and a government payment. They called it a farm subsidy but in farm country it is called a processor subsidy.

Sorry, the Florida recount looks like an honest election. Already farmers have lost their scalps to this new big chiefette from the Department of Agriculture. She has decided to bury her tomahawk in the pork producers again while puffing the peace pipe with the National Pork Producers Council.

At the time of the checkoff vote it was made clear

farmers would lose if the vote was NO. However it was not a dimpled Chad election, it was not even a close vote, farmers voted no by 53 percent to 47 percent.

Mandatory commodity checkoffs have been a cash cow of fraud and processor abuse for years. An inspector general review revealed some promotion boards had authorized such things as adult entertainment, and bills listed as personal services, wonder what that was?

The critical issue was producers voted to end the money because the National Pork Producers Council would not support the enforcement of anti-trust laws. It made independent hog farmers madder than a skin head on Wall Street over packer ownership of livestock, too.

Since the North American Free Trade Agreement, the packers had imported Canadian livestock by the truck load and called it domestic since it was processed in U.S. packing plants. It was a question of insider trading and a lack of price discovery in a captive market place.

So this is what those so called free traders are talking about. How is mandatory pork checkoffs any less onerous than mandatory union dues?

© 2001 Wayne Gattshall wayne@goodland-ixks.com

Caretaker concerned about sweepstakes entries

Dear Attorney General Stovall:
I have an elderly neighbor whom I help assist with daily activities. Recently, I have noticed that she is becoming involved in entering sweepstakes. First, she ordered a magazine from a well-known sweepstakes company which has led to a flood of sweepstakes entries. She receives some type of sweepstakes solicitation almost every day - each claiming that she is one step away from winning big. Each entry form includes an invitation to order merchandise, such as magazines, video tapes, compact discs, etc. She has been purchasing products she does not need, as she does not own a VCR or CD player! When I asked her why she purchases these products, many of which are still in boxes, she says it is to increase her chances of winning. Attorney General Stovall, I think these sweepstakes companies are preying on my friend because she is elderly. I am afraid she will soon not have enough money to cover her basic living expenses. Is there any advice you can give me?

Dear Kansas Consumer:
Many consumers share your same concern. I encourage you to take the steps necessary to keep companies from soliciting members of your family and community as well as explain to your loved ones that they are not increasing their chances of winning by ordering merchandise offered.

Below are some indications that your friend or loved one is becoming a victim of sweepstakes scams.

Stacks of saved sweepstakes solicitations from a multitude of companies;

-An unusual number of packages, many unopened, that contain products that the purchaser will not or cannot use.

-Numerous magazines lying around that appear to be unread.

-Products purchased that are inappropriate, such as magazines or products for activities the pur-



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

chaser does not partake in, such as mountain climbing.

-Many payments or duplicate payments made to the same company within a short amount of time.

If you think that the consumer is a victim of a sweepstakes scam, there are steps you can take. If the consumer will allow you, offer to collect the mail. This will give you an opportunity to review what mail the consumer is receiving. However, you must have the consumer's permission to do this. Many times the consumer, especially if the consumer is elderly, will see such an offer as a threat to his/her independence. Instead, you may volunteer to go through the sweepstakes solicitations with the individual to make sure that the individual understands that no purchase is needed to enter or win the sweepstakes.

If you live some distance away, or if you find the individual listens more to information from someone other than you, you may encourage the individual to participate in community activities and services offered to seniors to help them with their finances. A good place to start is with your local agency on aging, a social service agency, or the AARP.

If you are able to get an idea of which sweepstakes are soliciting the individual, you may consider contacting the companies to stop the solicitations. One way to reduce solicitations is through the Direct Marketing Association (DMA). DMA is a trade organization which represents many of the marketers that offer sweepstakes. You can

contact the DMA through its special e-mail address specifically set up to identify consumers who make too many, unusual or inappropriate sweepstakes purchases. The e-mail address is: sweepstakes@the-dma.org. You also may contact the DMA at the following address:
Direct Marketing Association
Attn: Sweepstakes
1111 19th Street NW — Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036-3603
Fax: 202-955-0085

The DMA will help you contact member companies to remove names >from their customer and prospect lists. You also can contact my Consumer Protection division at 1-800-432-2310 to assist you in stopping the companies from soliciting your loved ones.

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and an agent will return your call promptly.

berry's world

