

commentary

from other pens...

Wichita wants to change 'dusty' image

The Wichita Eagle on tourism:

We know Sedgwick County commissioners are kidding about exploiting this area's "flat and dusty" image. They have to be. But let's nip this thing in the bud, anyway.

The Wichita City Council is trying to get the County Commission to join in a \$250,000 partnership to promote tourism. Part of the city's pitch, city marketing official Jessica Johnson told the commission ... is to move Wichita's image away from "dusty trails."

That brought some crankiness from commissioners, including the comments that "yes, we are flat and dusty and windy" and we ought to try to sell such qualities — from County Commissioner Ben Sciortino.

And a funny tourism slogan from Commissioner Carol McGinn: "We're not just flat and dusty."

And a slightly refined funny slogan from Commissioner Tom Norton: "Flat and dusty and so much more."

We understand that commissioners really mean we shouldn't try to hide from our Old West heritage, that it can and should be used to draw tourists. ...

But enough with "flat and dusty."

We can get more tourists. We should. Let's use all our attractions to hook them.

... Let's talk about our place as the general aviation capital of the world — there's no doubt about it — and about our absolute and total failure to exploit that.

... Let's talk about finishing the deal with downtown revitalization — and restoring jewels such as the Orpheum Theater...

... Lots of places are flatter and dustier than Wichita. Let them sell those, uh, virtues.

The Salina Journal on drug courts:

Good old common-sense Kansas, which by rights should be a leader on this issue, is about to fall one more state behind the curve of bringing sanity to the War on Drugs.

A drug-reform organization bankrolled by three of the richest people around ... has picked Florida as the next target in the campaign to recognize drug addiction as the illness it is, and create a new way of dealing with first- and second-time possession defendants.

Well, new in Florida. But not new in California and Arizona, where the drug court idea has caught on and is saving lives of addicts, and saving tons of taxpayers' money.

Kansas, apparently, is not yet on the radar screen of this campaign.

... Public officials, hopelessly addicted to the anti-drug drug and scared to death to appear as anything other than tough on crime, won't touch it. ...

... First- and second-time offenders don't go to criminal courts. They go to drug court. They are ordered, basically, to clean up, and connected with the counseling and other resources to do so.

... This idea makes so much sense the only thing standing in the way of it sweeping the nation is the paranoia, denial and other anti-drug drug symptoms that describe our elected officials.

It would be so wonderful if Kansas politicians would see the light and implement such a system here, without the need for the people to rise up and demand it.

Don't hold your breath.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten if possible, and should include a telephone number and, most importantly, a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with phone numbers, by e-mail to: <daily@nwkans.com>.

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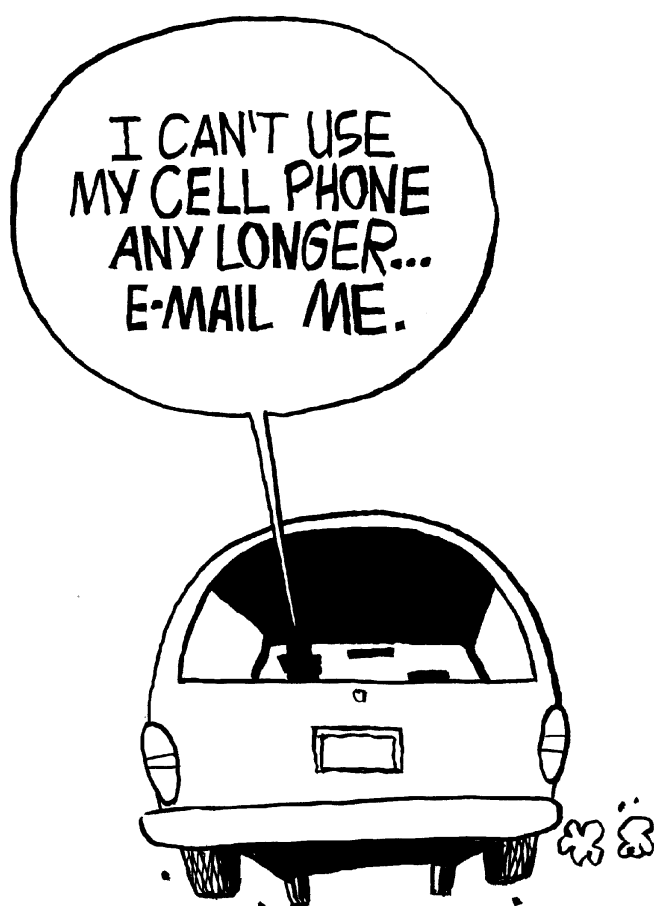
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Now a free trade agreement for carbon dioxide

What's with the Europeans?

We fled their shores for a little house on the prairie.

The King of England hung our people because we would not kneel to his private church. Then it was his church or the hangman's noose.

In the twentieth century we saved their derriere (buttocks) butts in two world wars.

We loaned them gold to save the Bank of England, that they never paid back.

Even before the U.S. entered the war Herbert Hoover was President Wilson's European Food Administrator. Then after the war it was U.S. Food administration.

If it had not been for American food aid after WW I France and England would have starved the European continent because they wanted to punish Germany.

Only after the occupation troops found children going through their garbage did President Wilson say "you whipped them but can't starve them too." He told Prime minister Lloyd George to release the food, "it's paid for out of private funds."

France said we want the German gold before they get food but the English just wanted to nail down the fishing rights of Europe first.

Then in WWII it was the American Marshal plan and the Breton Woods agreement. We gave them the food and let their currency ride piggy back on the good as gold U.S. dollar. We not only saved Europe from the worst famine in history but we helped them build their factories.



wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

So who are they to say the big Chief in the White Teepee is a hooligan when he would not sign the Kyoto agreement. An agreement that they were unwilling to sign themselves.

Who are they to say "you are polluting the earth" when the unaligned socialist nation of Sweden has used nuclear power forever. That's easy Sweden is as anti-American as the eco-terrosts themselves.

Who are they to lecture Americans when they don't have a ministry of agriculture. They call it the department of green and agriculture. So there we have it! That's not so different, we call it the Department of Agriculture but it is the department of the greens.

Since the Green Indians have taken over the tribal council (Senate) the new Indian has said let's give farmers \$50,000 dollars if they would restore a wet land (conservation reserve).

You know these guys would say satellites show farmers were polluting Cape Cod. This Kyoto non-agreement is a polluters George Orwellian masterpiece. It just wants the money. They are frauds, they call it permits to pollute, but it's taxes, for the United Nations. They don't want to give U.S. agriculture CO2 credits for emitting oxygen, even if we gave

them away. You can't store CO2s in the ocean either.

So it is a skin the U.S. game. They openly admit the European Union could buy permits to pollute, which Kyoto won't do the same for the U.S. Anyway even if global warming did occur, what would the iceberg watching environs d? Shorten their Mecca's at some Iceberg Hotel in Sweden?

Wonder if they watch them from a warm air polluting building? Yup, you can't have those rich guys getting frost bite, you know.

They say trust us snow would turn into rain and the southern third of Sweden would be green the year around. Oh oh, rush to the nearest mud puddle in the woods and pray.

These guys would make IBP and ADM look like land reformers in Zimbabwe. Once again there is no free lunch. The E.U. wants to exchange the right to pollute in exchange for their agriculture. So the deception is exposed growing more corn is the solution, to global warming! It does use carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, you know.

Oh oh, now the light flashes on. We know what that new Indian at the tribal council is talking about, now. If you can't fix it use subsidies.

This farm-food scheme has lost the war on poverty now it wants to do the same for global warming. Remember all those geeks that say farmers are paid not to farm? Well, how about lynching the price gougers and call it a carbon dioxide farm.

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Look out for a new spin on an old fraud

Dear Kansas Consumers:

For several years my Consumer Protection division has been warning Kansas consumers to be aware of the "Nigerian Scam." The scam comes in the form of a letter promising millions of dollars in return for the use of a recipient's bank account. It started many years ago in Europe and more recently made its way to the United States. In Kansas, the letters first were addressed to businesses and some farm owners and ranchers who used a corporate name. Eventually the scam spread so that any Kansan could be a recipient of this letter. We used to tell consumers to be on the lookout for any letter that came from Lagos, Nigeria. We have now become aware of letters from other countries as well. Therefore, we want to warn consumers to be wary of any letter that comes from any country bearing the following traits.

The sender of the letter claims to be a civil servant who wants to transfer millions of dollars out of his country. He claims that, as a civil servant, he is forbidden by protocol to own or operate a foreign account, so he proposes to give 30 percent of \$35.5 million to the recipient's bank account. According to the letter, he and his associates will keep 60 percent and the remaining 10 percent will be used for expenses such as bribes for officials who are not involved in the deal. To receive this cash windfall, the recipient is asked to send his or her banker's name, telephone and fax numbers,



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

back account number and a blank sheet of business stationery signed by the recipient.

Please be aware that this is a scam to obtain your banking information which will allow the sender to access your account and steal your money!

Once again, we encourage Kansans to ignore these letters in spite of the temptation for tremendous wealth. If you respond to the letter, you will receive a follow-up letter or fax that asks for an advance fee, a transfer tax, a performance bond or some form of up-front payment. If you pay the money, further "complications" requiring more money will arise until you have had enough, run out of money, or both. The scam artist may even take a more direct route and wipe out your bank account electronically. This is why you should never give out your bank account number.

Do not allow yourself to become a victim. If you receive a letter from any African country that resembles this scam, but have not suffered financial damage, fax the documents to the Secret Service Task Force at 202-435-5031. If you have suffered

financial loss, call 202-435-5490 and leave a telephone number where an agent can reach you. You may also mail the letter to:

United States Secret Service
Financial Crimes Division
1800 G Street NW - Room 942
Washington, DC 20223

It is estimated that the scam has netted about \$5 billion worldwide. It is virtually impossible to recover any losses, so it obviously has devastating effects on victims. Please be careful not to become one of them.

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

