

commentary

from other pens...

Some Dems worried about 'soft money' bill

By Will Lester

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Top Democrats support fund-raising legislation that could hamper the party's campaign operations. Republicans oppose it even though it could give them an increased financial advantage almost immediately.

The bill passed by the Senate would ban "soft money," unlimited contributions unions, corporations and individuals can donate to political parties for party building and promoting voter interest.

Introduced by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russell Feingold, D-Wis., the measure also would bar unions, corporations and some independent groups from broadcasting certain types of political advertising close to an election or primary.

The House is to start next week considering a similar bill, sponsored by Reps. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., and Christopher Shays, R-Conn.

Democratic national chairman Terry McAuliffe says changes the Senate-passed bill would bring would force Democrats to "build the grass roots of the party." Looking to the party's future, McAuliffe said, he's spending millions of dollars to update computer databases and the party's direct-mail operation.

Analyst Stu Rothenberg: "There's a pro-campaign finance reform euphoria that has swept through the Democratic Party. They've talked about it so long now they've kind of painted themselves into a corner."

Republican Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said it may take the Democrats a good deal of time to build up the kind of direct-mail effort to compete for hard money with Republicans, who have a marked advantage.

"It takes a while to do that," Davis said, speaking of McAuliffe's new effort to raise hard money by direct mail. "It may take him until the next election cycle. They are digging themselves a hole they won't be able to get out of before the 2002 election."

In recent years, Democrats have made up the difference with Republicans by raising millions in unrestricted soft money.

"Democrats are driving legislation that will put a stake through the heart of grass-roots and voter education initiatives," said the Republican committee's chief counsel, Michael Toner.

House GOP leaders, who regard the soft-money ban as a violation of free-speech rights guaranteed by the Constitution's First Amendment, are backing an alternative bill offered by Republican Bob Ney of Ohio. That bill would ban soft money for federal election activities such as issue ads but permits it, with a \$75,000 cap, for voter registration, get-out-the-vote drives and the like.

Black and Hispanic lawmakers have expressed reservations about the Senate-passed bill and expressed support for Ney's ideas.

Rep. Albert Wynn, a Maryland Democrat, heads a campaign finance task force for the Congressional Black Caucus. He favors the Ney compromise to allow some soft money.

Backers of McCain-Feingold contend the Ney compromise is aimed at killing campaign finance reform.

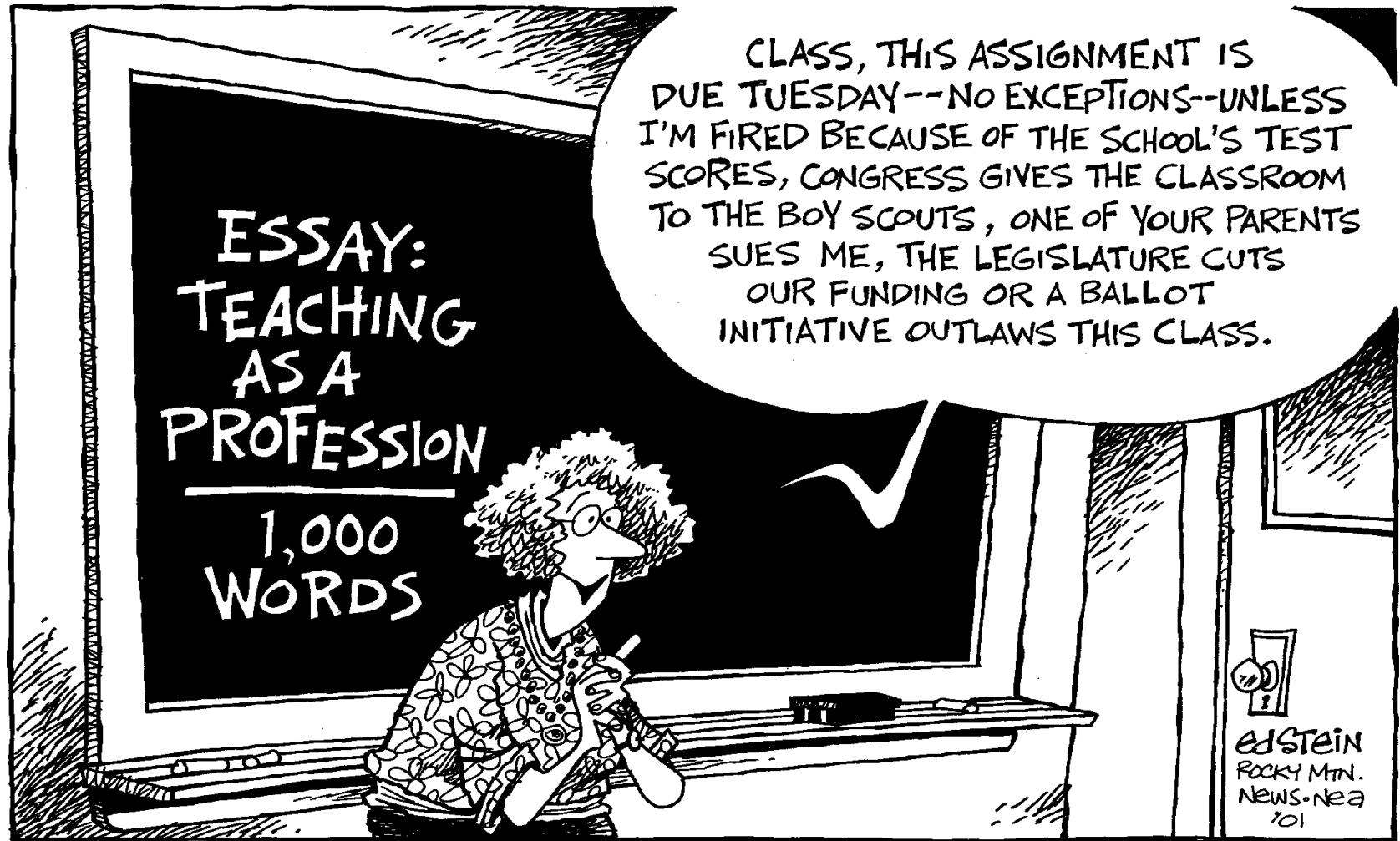
Some party officials with the committees involved in House and Senate campaigns have expressed anxiety about the loss of soft money. But Jenny Backus, a spokeswoman with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said Democrats can still win elections because their issues are more popular.

McCain, Feingold, Shays and Meehan plan rallies in Boston and New York Monday to stir support for the Senate campaign finance bill.

McAuliffe, meanwhile, has been making the most of his party's endangered soft money. He started a voting rights institute, a women's center, a redistricting project and a Hispanic center.

And his effort to upgrade Democratic mailing lists, databases and direct mail operations was financed at least partially by soft money.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Will Lester covers polling and politics for The Associated Press.



Some things just bear repeating

I don't know about you, but every once in awhile, I repeat myself.

Two years ago I was reminded of this by one of my sons after I told the same story for the third time.

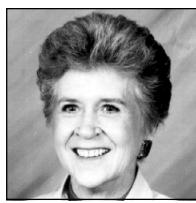
I wonder if someday when I'm gone, he'll long to hear me tell it again — as I long for the sound of my parents' voices. But that's not what I mean to write in this column.

Usually when I repeat myself, it is unintentional. Maybe living alone tends to make us forgetful. We're so glad to find a willing ear, we say things over and over. But that isn't what I mean to write either.

What I'm trying to say is that repeating this time on my part is intentional. Five years ago, I included the following quote in a column, but I feel the need to use it again.

It was originally published in 1919 in the Bartlesville, Okla. Examiner. This is called 'What's Happening in Our United States':

The following excerpts from a file on 'Communist Rules for Revolution' were obtained by the Armed Forces in Dusseldorf (Germany) in May



**lorna
g. t.**

● commentary

1919. It might explain some of today's happenings.

A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial; destroy their ruggedness.

B. Get control of all means of publicity and thereby:

1. Get the people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books and plays, and other trivialities.

2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.

3. Destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding the latter up to contempt, ridicule, and obloquy (abuse).

4. Always preach true democracy but seize power

as fast and ruthlessly as possible.

5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit, produce fear of inflation with rising prices and general discontent.

6. Foment unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders, and foster a lenient and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.

7. By specious argument cause the breakdown of the old moral virtues: honesty, sobriety, continence, faith in the pledged word, ruggedness.

C. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, with the view of confiscation of them and leaving the population helpless.

The Cold War may be over, the Berlin Wall may be down, but I wonder if the communist ideals weren't already planted in our society.

We might follow our 4th of July celebrations with some introspection. We might not like what we see. Like Pogo said once, "I have seen the enemy, and he is us."

If you have any comments about this column or idea please email me at lornagt@nwkansas.com.

Goodland police officers assist motorist

Dear editor:

While helping our son move to Virginia on June 8, we experienced difficulty with the rental equipment used to tow a vehicle. We stopped in Goodland to determine what options were available to us when officer Greg Kroskey came by and offered his assistance.

He assisted us in contacting the rental company and also had another police department employee, Butch Smith, help us in eliminating the problem.

They not only both stayed with us until the situation was resolved, but they both also helped to fix the problem.

Without their assistance, what could have been a long delay, was resolved in relatively short order. I want to personally thank officers Kroskey and Smith for going out of their way to help us correct a problem which we were ill-prepared to deal with.

James Lowe
Denver, Colorado

Dear Editor,

When people wonder what is happening to our youth, this may be one answer:

Last week I was coming home and turned off K-27 onto 12th street. As I approached Cattletrail, I noticed a child on a tiny bike with training wheels, on the driveway to my right; He may have been four (possibly five).

I came to a complete stop just after I crossed Cattletrail, because I did not know what this child would do. (I wonder how many people would have done that.) Sure enough, without looking at all, he rode out in front of me, then he saw me and moved over. There was a dog with him. As he came toward my car on the right side, I thought: where are his guardians — parents, baby-sitter, somebody to look after this child.

I honked twice, nobody showed up. I hollered out my window as I drove away, and still, nobody showed up to look after this child.

Good grief, why was this child, this very young child, out in the street without a parent or guardian?

I believe we are just getting too lazy. Several times I have watched people at Wal-Mart as they empty their shopping carts. Instead of walking a few extra feet (sometimes not even that) to put the cart in the cart corral, they walk the other way, even when the cart corral is right behind their vehicles. They leave them in the middle of the parking place. Because they are just too lazy. I'm not talking about the disabled who have trouble walking to their cars, I'm talking about able bodied people, lazy people.

What do the two have in common, just this: we are becoming a lazy society. It is easier to look the other way, hoping we don't get caught, and nothing happens to the children, then it is to do the right thing.

What is the right thing? While I know this does not pertain to everybody, it does to the few that make all of us look bad, as parents and people in general.

We need to keep our children close. We need to



**from our
readers**

● to the editor

stop being too lazy to even walk a few extra feet to put the cart in the cart corral; God knows, we all could use the exercise.

Jesus indicated our children are the innocent ones. That does not mean they are stupid, just not experienced enough to know what to do in all situations.

Are we teaching our children to be lazy? Children are tiny people, people with less experience, making them more vulnerable. Let's keep an eye on our children, let's be a village and keep an eye on all the children.
Ronald Asbury
Goodland

Dear Editor;

My father asked me yesterday if I was going to put something in the Goodland Daily "thanking" everyone for their help.

I must admit I had not done so mainly because I believe each and everyone deserves a personal "Thank You." And deep down inside I think I have been putting off some of the things and thank you's I should do or should have done.

For doing so — I would have to admit the trailer really did burn to the ground and my beautiful daughter Jenny and her two lovely "full of life" children (James and Amanda) are gone from us forever more.

Thank you God, for lending them to us, though the time was to short and I was way too busy to fully enjoy them."

It has been said "Generosity lies less in giving much, than in giving at the right moment." The generosity of this community has been wonderful. How do you thank people for all their thoughts, prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy?

Since the accident, I have written and mailed well over 200 thank you notes. Sitting here on the desk in front of me is a stack of thank you notes — which I am unable to mail due to lack of full names or address. Unable to deliver if mailed as is.

So, Please bear with me as I attempt to say thank you.

Thank you to the members of the Goodland Fire Department for their attempts at the time of the fire. And following the fire — the campaign for working smoke detectors in every home in the community.

Thank you to Jenny's neighbors who helped or stood in awe for there was nothing that could be done.

Thank you to the Goodland Police Department — Who did their job even if at the time I did not appreciate their efforts. Especially want to thank, Bill who tried so hard to make it easy on us when nothing in the whole mess was easy.

Thank you to the EMT's and the Goodland Regional Medical Center Staff for the care given and support shared during and in the aftermath.

Thank you to a special friend, Jan Phillips, who was there to hold me together and run interference.

Thank you to Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey and Rev. Loren Strait for being with us during those first terror filled hours.

Thank you to the Red Cross, Genesis and the Salvation Army which continue to give aid.

Thank you to John and Judy Bateman and their staff for handling and directing the where, when, and what fore's.

Thank you to the Goodland School System — who helped round up and supplied us with copies of information lost in the fire.

Thank you to Bobbie Jo for all the leg work — running errands — moving furniture - gathering newspapers and enlarging photos.

Thank you to the Boy Scouts, leaders and scouts alike, who were there to help and honor James.

Thank you to the Tuesday night Alibi Bowling League — what a wonderful group of ladies you are. God Bless each and every one.

Thank you to family and friends who traveled from far and wide to lend support and share our grief.

Thank you for Pastor Lorna Gattshall-Tovrea for spiritual support and guiding the family through the rough spots with prayer.

Thank you to those who sent the lovely flowers and plants for the service.

Thank you to Rev. Carol Moore Ramey for the lovely meaningful service and Dave Hubert for the music.

Thank you to the Methodist Church ladies for the wonderful meal.

Thank you to the Very Special Staff at the Sherman Co. Good Samaritan Center for all they did to support Sherry, Dan and myself. Every time we turned around someone from the Good Sam Family was there to help with a hug, a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, hands to help with the funeral service (before, during and after). Helping also with food, clothing, visits and Dr. Pepper.

Volunteers from Good Samaritan Centers in Atwood, Hays and LaCross came to help at the center so our co-workers could be there for us the day of the funeral.

Thank you for all the wonderful family and friends that stopped by the house with food, paper goods, cards, financial support and prayers. Each expression of sympathy and shared memories will be treasured in my heart.

Thank you is not enough so, I wish for each of you time. Time to share love and the gift of family that the Lord has given to each of us. Time to enjoy and appreciate all the blessings and challenges placed before us daily.

Mary Ann Mills
Sherry and Cappi Thomas
Tammy, Jay, Chere' and Michael Wells
Lee V. Gotchall
Dan and Thomas McCurry
Goodland

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