

commentary

from other pens...

Urging protestors to be respectful of laws

The Wichita Eagle on abortion protests:
It was 10 years ago that Wichita became ground zero for the national struggle over abortion. For 46 days, the protests roiled our streets, challenged our leaders and clogged our courts.

They also tested our conscience, as individuals and as a community. Sides were chosen. Lines were drawn. Laws were broken. In some cases, hearts were changed. In others, they were hardened. And for many, Wichita's scars from that Summer of Mercy remain fresh and defining.

Organizers are now planning a "Summer of Mercy Renewal," a follow-up protest led by Operation Save America. And while we endorse the right to protest, we urge protesters on both sides to conduct their demonstrations peacefully and to show respect for our laws, law-enforcement officers and each other.

The rules for such protests have changed since 1991, because of the 1994 federal law barring the kind of clinic blockades that led to thousands of arrests during the Summer of Mercy.

The main target of the abortion protests hasn't changed. George Tiller's practice on East Kellogg, where the doctor was shot by abortion foe Shelley Shannon in 1993, is still the city's primary abortion provider.

In large part because of out-of-state, late term referrals to Dr. Tiller's clinic, Kansas has been the site of more than 100,000 abortions since 1991. Although abortions are at a two-decade low nationally, Kansas' abortion rate has risen 22 percent over the past decade...

Whatever happens in Wichita in the coming days won't end the nation's battle over abortion. We ask that all the demonstrators, both locals and out-of-towners, honor the promises to be civil and law-abiding. We also ask that all Wichitans approach the protests with understanding.

The Topeka Capital-Journal on governor's race:

What's the matter? Isn't the color scheme at the remodeled governor's mansion to anyone's liking? Does no one want to step in the ring with a shadow-boxing Legislature? Do we have to run a classified ad in the newspaper?

Well, the latter would no doubt get great results. But we shouldn't have to go that far to get someone to run for governor in 2002...

Sure it's early. But so far, the race for Kansas governor has been marked more by who's not running than by who is...

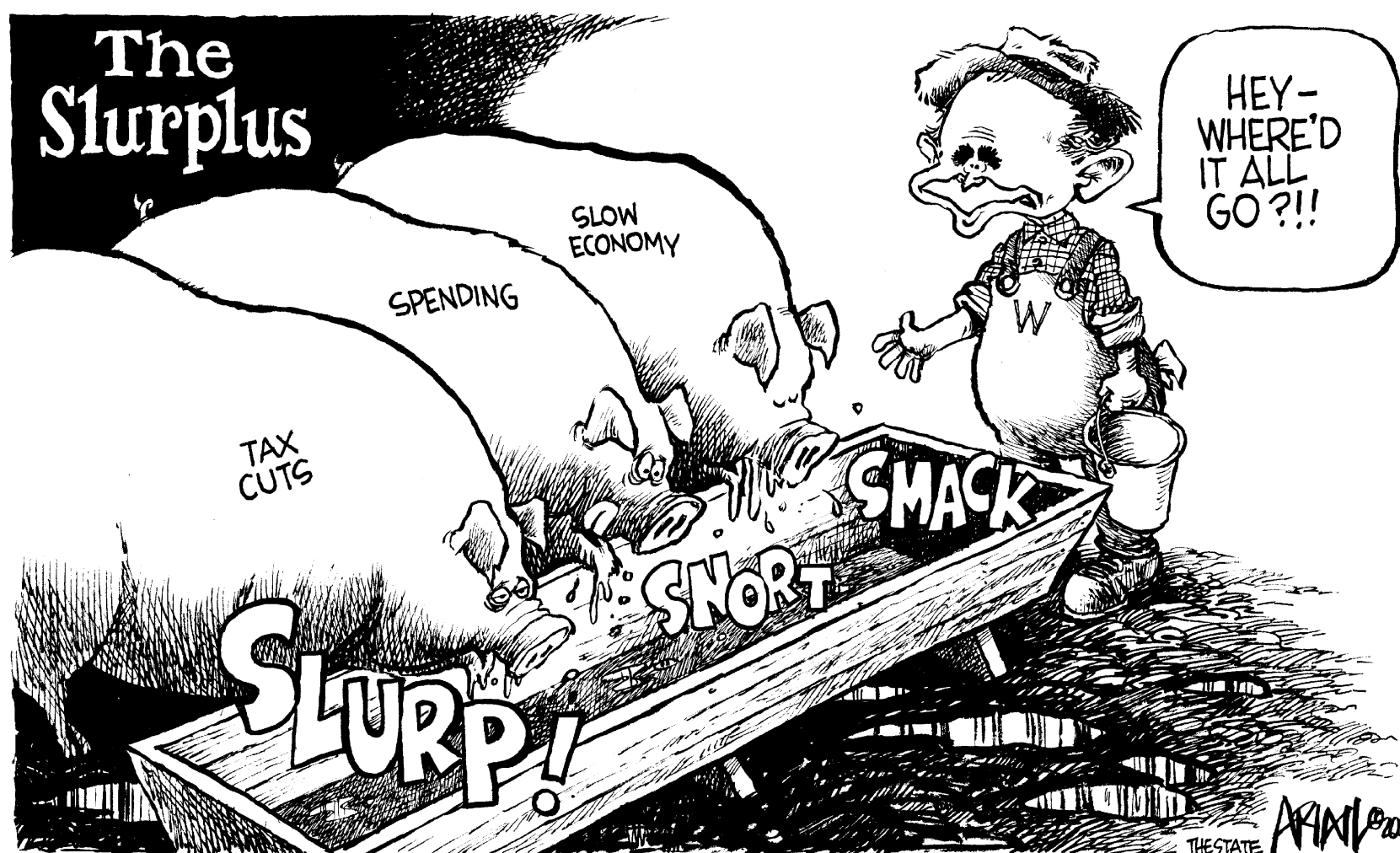
Not to worry. There will be plenty of folks to step forward. For the Republicans, House Speaker Kent Glasscock..., and 1st District congressman Jerry Moran... For the Democrats there's — well, there's Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius...

A Sebelius-Moran battle would not only be civil and high-minded, but also intriguing — owing to Moran's representation and the Sebelius reputation in the western part of the state...

But there are other Republicans who may yet test the waters, including 4th District U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt, state treasurer Tim Shallenburger and state party chairman Mark Parkinson...

Speculation as to who will run for office and who won't is a form of sport in a capital city. But it's more than that: This kind of unofficial campaigning has a direct bearing on the choices you will have for the top spot in state government. So it bears watching.

It would be more of a spectacle, though, if some more folks would actually enter the race.



A college degree for new age gold bugs!

What do the geeks mean when they say boost the money supply and do something about the price of gold?

Yeah, right! They would say when porno bars in California have windmills!

Since the 1997 world wide currency crisis the all mighty dollar has been on the moon and they like it that way. They say great nations have a strong dollar.

Sound dollar yes, strong dollar, maybe yes, maybe no, it is not quite the same thing. We could have a sound currency without being the dumping ground for the world's surpluses. U.S. exports do matter.

All these cyberspace true believers want is another tax haven in China.

It's classic Washington vomit. Bet they think Joan of Ark was Noah's wife.

It was only after the dot.coms began to go the way of Sitting Bull did the cry babies want the Father of our Republic, Alan Greenspan, to boost the money supply (pump money into the economy).

Oops, that used to be inflationary. At least that's what they said when grain prices were bush-whacked by three consecutive grain embargoes.

Does anyone remember the talk of a farm strike in 1980? Then it was you farmers are a bunch of crazy speculators and deserve to fail.

Speculators — crazy you say? Alan you are a



wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

blight since the everybody's money tree stock market has regurgitated \$4.6 trillion out of the stock market. These new age gold bugs say the price of gold does matter.

Well the chicken has choked and their policies have finally caught up with them. It's not nice to fool the market economy with unlimited money to revive a bunch of computer geeks, like we did in 1980. Their risky loans in South America had gone the way of \$5.00 wheat and \$11.00 soybeans, and we had 20 percent interest.

Their solution then was to give the Panama Canal to the drug dealer Noriega. Once the Panamanian Government inherited \$120 million money it landed in some New York City bank quicker than a Californian can say price gouger. There is a difference between an Indian and an Indian Chief.

When the U.S. Federal Reserve bails out some crazy speculator in the world currency exchange it is short circuiting the laws of economics and the only way it has to express itself is to have unemployment and depressed commodity prices. So if

those fancy guys want higher gold prices get ready for higher wheat, corn and soybeans prices, too.

You know that would be as welcome as a China spy trial on Capital Hill. U.S. interests rates are already lower than the Peoples Republic of China sovereign bonds. Furthermore, it takes a year to eighteen months for lower interest rates to bite into the economy.

It's the lawless advising the ignorant. They have been in charge for two decades and they think successful risk taking is another federal intervention.

It's great for the big Chief in the White Teepee to know things are tough out on the farm, but another fast track won't do it.

Our trade deficits isn't what made America great, either. Before everyone devalued their currencies the U.S. had exports of \$60 billion and our trade deficit was \$107 billion — now it may be as high as \$450 billion. For every \$1 billion of trade deficit we lose 15,000 jobs, and if our trade deficit is \$375 billion we have lost over 400,000 jobs.

Now of course the General Agreement on Trade and Tarriff 'it's like to talk about new jobs but they don't lay jobs lost and jobs gained side by side.

If it is the economy in the green part of the country. Trade Promotion Authority (fast track) makes as much sense as catching methane gas from a cow's flatulent, to reduce global warming.

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What do all these 'privacy policies' mean?

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

I have recently been receiving privacy policy information from the companies where I bank, have credit accounts, and have insurance policies. However, I am not sure what these "privacy policies" mean. The companies tell me I need to complete "opt-out" forms if I want to keep my information private, but I thought the information I gave to these companies was always private. Is information about me shared with other businesses? What could happen if I do not send back these "opt-out" forms?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

The reason you have been receiving these privacy notices in the mail is due to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley (GLB) Act, a law which went into effect on November 13, 2000. Under this new act, financial institutions were required to provide their customers with notice of their privacy policies by July 2, 2001. The term "financial institution" has been broadly interpreted to include banks, credit card providers, savings and loans, credit unions, insurance companies, securities firms, and some retailers and auto dealers which collect information about consumers with credit accounts.

Some consumers may be surprised to learn that



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

personal information is shared with other businesses. This shared information may include a customer's debt level, payment amounts for house or car, account balances, as well as buying and shopping habits. Companies then use this information to target consumers who may be potential customers, and the information is often shared between two or more affiliated companies or purchased by unrelated companies.

The GLB Act prohibits these "financial institutions" from providing any personal information about their customers to "non-affiliated third parties" unless certain guidelines have been met. These guidelines involve the sending of privacy notices and disclosures as well as "opt-out" materials to each customer. Even if a company does not plan on sharing its customers' personal information, it is still required to mail its privacy policy to

those consumers. In order to keep information from being shared, a customer must fill out the "opt-out" paperwork that has been provided and send it back to the designated company. Once a company has provided you with an "opt-out" form, filling it out and sending it back is the only way to keep your information from being shared.

The July 2001, deadline only applied to "financial institutions" and does not affect a consumer's ability to "opt-out." If at any time you do not want your information shared with other companies, complete the "opt-out" forms provided and send them back to the appropriate company. You may contact the company if you no longer have the forms that were initially mailed to you.

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.

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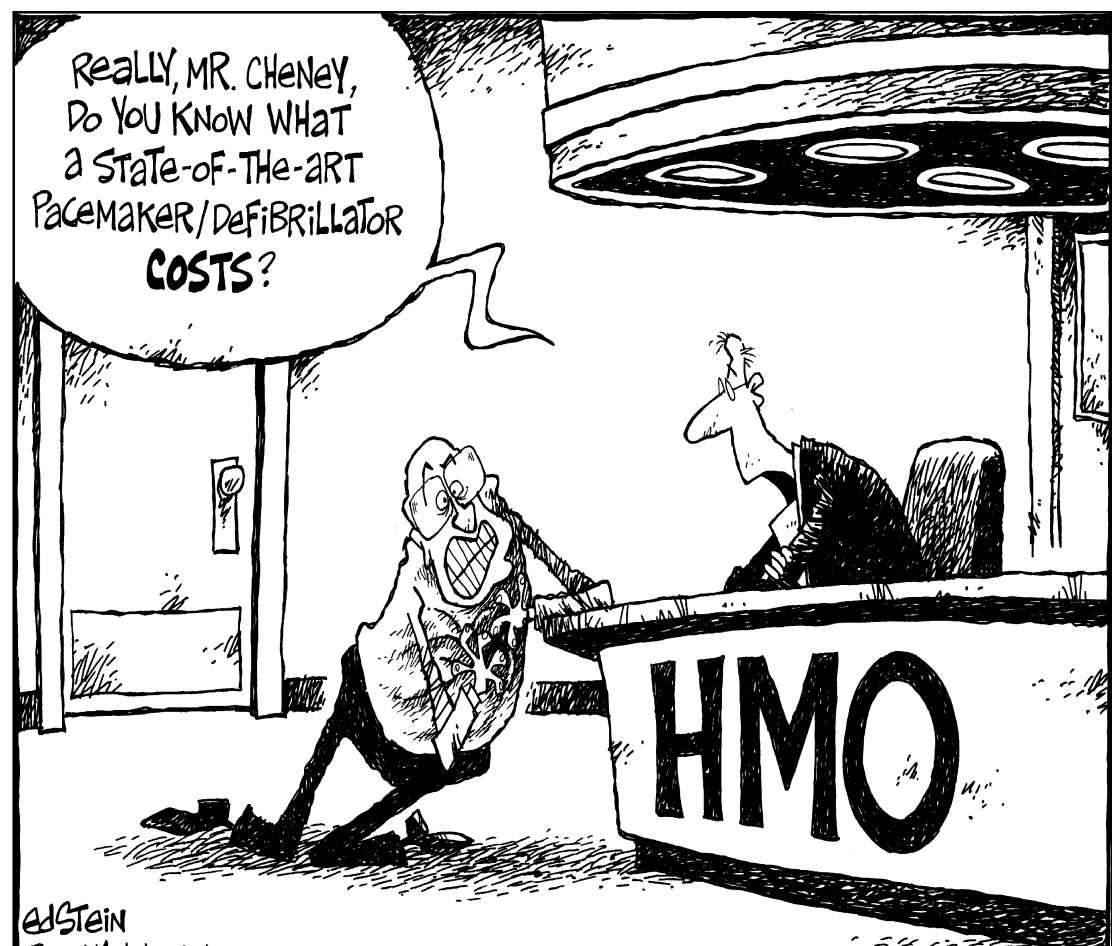
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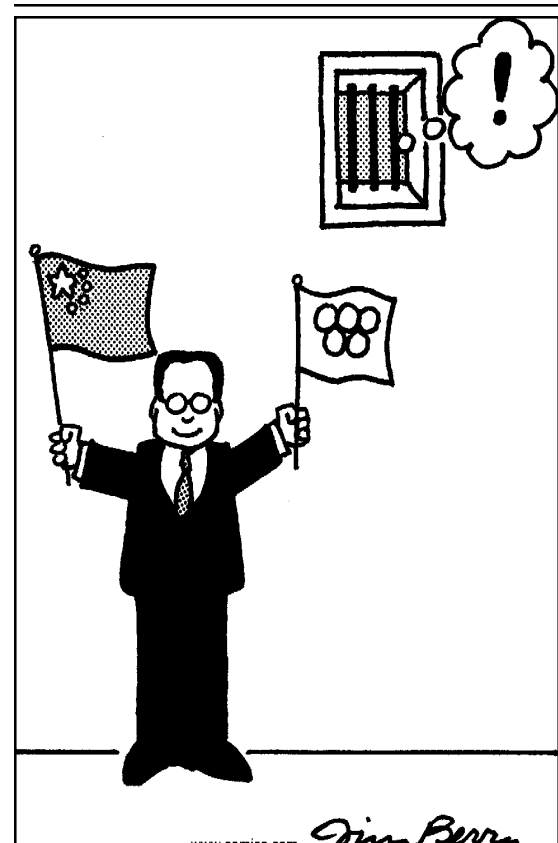
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