

# commentary

from other pens...

## Trying to keep ahead of the meth lab cases

**The Garden City Telegram on meth production:**  
By most experts' assertions, Kansas ranks in the top 10 among all states for methamphetamine production. Yet, the state's overburdened crime lab can't keep up with the number of cases on the docket, and accused drug offenders are set free.  
What do they do? Return to making their poison in dangerous make-shift labs.  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation laboratories are still processing meth samples taken from arrests more than two years old. ... Consequently, the system is turning meth makers back on the streets, their charges dismissed because of the backlog of cases.  
It seems obvious that the problem is of such considerable importance that lawmakers would make fighting meth manufacturing a priority. KBI discovered and destroyed more than 700 meth labs last year. So far this year, the agency has found more than 400.  
Help is on the way, thanks to a federal grant that will be used to hire five new chemists. It will take a year to train them. Lawmakers have a difficult job each legislative season parceling out the limited funds they have to work with. ...  
Not until lawmakers get serious about wanting to win the battle with drug makers and dealers will there be any significant impact. ...  
The state vigorously fought the big tobacco companies for what they claimed were the physical crimes committed on Kansans. Meth makers and pushers are no different, and equal energy should be put toward their removal from our neighborhoods.

**The Kansas City Star on Joan Finney:**  
Joan Finney, the first woman to serve as Kansas governor, leaves a legacy of greater opportunity for women in politics and government. Even with her unpredictable and often erratic style, Finney helped people to become more accepting of women as top officeholders. ...  
Finney, a Democrat who was governor from 1991 to 1995, died July 28 at the age of 76 from complications of liver cancer.  
... During Finney's administration, the Kansas Legislature did pass workmen's compensation reform. Finney worked with the Democrats who controlled the House to dramatically overhaul the state's school-finance formula. However, that overhaul has proven to be a mistake because it created difficult financial situations for many school districts.  
Despite her missteps in governing, Finney had few equals when it came to campaigning. She liked people, and they liked her.  
She saw herself as the champion of ordinary people, trying to protect their interests against high taxes and speaking out for what they would want in Topeka. On the campaign trail, she had a knack for remembering names and who was related to whom. It was as though she never met a voter she didn't like.  
Kansans responded to this. Finney served 16 years as state treasurer. In 1990, the voters chose her as governor over a former governor (John Carlin) and an incumbent governor (Mike Hayden).  
Joan Finney was a one-of-a-kind politician who will be remembered for truly caring about her constituents.

### where to write

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**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521  
**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676  
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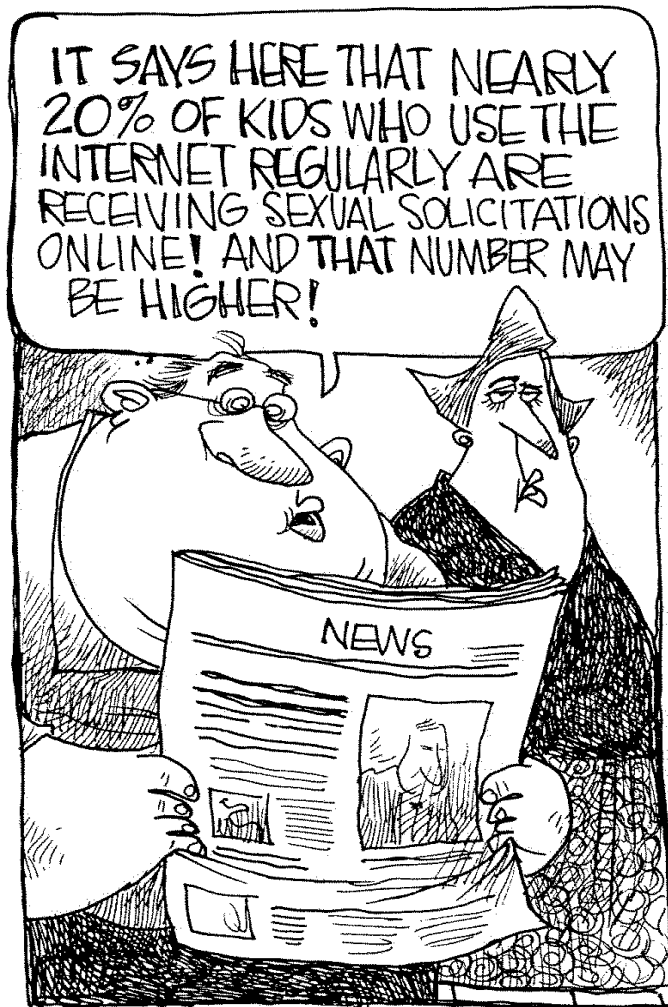
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**THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
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## When a futures market is better than windmills

Boy it sure is hard to be a politician these days. They better not fail their pornographic 'er, oops, I mean polygraph test.  
You know there is bigger news in the pioneer village along the Potomac than looking for a missing intern.  
Something like the big Chief in the White Teepee smoking the peace pipe with those Kyoto global warming freaks. Or ...  
The Chicago Board of Trade creating the world's first market for polluters of greenhouse gases. It will be called the Chicago Climate Exchange.  
Another market to sell something that may not exist? The global warming spooks and a futures exchange has a lot in common with Miss Cleo the TV psychic. They both are for suckers.  
At least three times in the last 25 years the futures market in grains has suspended trading. Once in the 1970s trading was suspended when the Hunt family bought more soybeans than Ned Cook Enterprises of Memphis could deliver.  
Did the perpetrators go to jail? No, they just busted grain prices back until Cook Enterprises could pay Bunker Hunt.  
Then following three consecutive grain embargoes the futures market closed down for nearly a week. The same thing happened on July 11, 1989



### wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

when Ferruzzi Finanziria and Archer Daniels Midland Co. came eye ball to eye ball over deliverable soybeans.  
In these cases it was not farm surpluses but a short supply of soybeans at the Chicago Board of Trade.  
But that isn't all, the bears got caught again in July of 1996. So what did these free traders do? The futures market just advanced the delivery days barely ten days into July the option month to avoid massive defaults.  
Well don't worry about that, this Chicago Climate Exchange, and the global warming hooligans will have plenty of carbon dioxide emissions. All these guys who have enough money to air condition hell — will buy, buy, buy. It doesn't do anything about global warming. It would do more good to mandate windmills for porno bars in California.  
How can you measure how much carbon dioxide a field of corn will take. If the Environmental Protection Agency could it might be better than

owning an oil well or windmill.  
If anyone thinks fractional banking is a ponzi scheme just wait till they start trading greenhouse gas emissions on a futures market. We may need the licensing of agricultural exports to keep our farm surpluses, but we can buy and sell global warming emissions that may not exist.  
It could be farmers don't know much about a futures market in carbon dioxide, but he sure knows a lot about surpluses. In fact some say as long as we have a futures market, there will always be farm surpluses.  
It is self evident that, with or without farmers, these buccaneers in this carbon dioxide market place could make enough money to fund the year 2002 farm bill. But you can forget that. These fancy guys will say not with our money!  
So American taxpayers beware, everyone home free. There will be another farm bill, another North American Trade Agreement, and a futures market to trade pollution credits.  
In addition to that — with or without farmers someone is going to make a lot of money. Sure hope they don't tax farmers for using all that carbon dioxide.  
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## Congress should encourage reform at Smithsonian

Maureen Dowd needs to visit the first ladies. Not Laura Bush, but those who preceded her as they are memorialized in the antiquated exhibits on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.  
Then the tart-talking New York Times columnist should visit the vivid new exhibit on the American presidency with its videos, interactive displays and hundreds of objects, ranging from Thomas Jefferson's writing desk to Dwight Eisenhower's golf clubs.  
Dowd ought to spend time at the museum because she, among others, has attacked the idea that major donors to the Smithsonian ought to get prominent recognition, including "naming rights," in return for their gifts.  
In a column in June, she took the side of staffers, historians and academics who charge that Smithsonian Secretary Lawrence Small is "Disneyfying and dumbing down" the hallowed institution.  
Actually, Small is in the process of saving the Smithsonian from crumbling physically and becoming crashingly boring to young Americans reared on movie special effects, video games and the Internet.  
Small raised the \$10 million to bring pandas back to the National Zoo and attracted a record 31 million visitors to the institution last year, but he's still being sniped at by inside critics, some of whom call him a "Philistine" or "a suit," partly because he lacks a Ph.D.  
On a deeper level, the attacks are part of a struggle over who will control the Smithsonian — the secretary or 16 individual museum directors and their staffs, who have become accustomed to operating independent fiefs.  
Small is also an object of criticism because, as an ex-banker, he's the first Smithsonian secretary who's neither an academic nor a scientist.  
However, he just received a major boost in the form of the National Academy of Public Administration's Congressionally mandated report, which calls for centralized management to



### morton kondracke

• commentary

meet the expensive challenge of modernizing the institution's dilapidated infrastructure.  
The cost of repairing buildings will be \$1.5 billion over 10 years, according to the report. That money will have to come mainly from Congress.  
To acquire those funds, NAPA called for a better financial management system, replacing semisecret "cuff" budgets that individual museum directors have used to keep their financial conditions hidden from top Smithsonian officials and Congress.  
The report states that although the federal government provides 70 percent of the Smithsonian's funding (\$494 million for fiscal 2002), many employees regard the government as "an intrusive presence" and have little sense of "public purposes, public accountability (and) public interest."  
It notes that the staff regards itself like a university faculty, a group notorious on many campuses for disparaging the administration that raises money to pay its salaries.  
The report calls for the Smithsonian to be "more responsive" to the Office of Management and Budget and appropriators in Congress. Congress ought to see that this happens; it will strengthen Small's hand in relation to his "faculty."  
Besides replacing decrepit buildings, including falling ceiling plaster at the "castle" on the Mall, Small needs to modernize the displays in the museums.  
Many of them contain exhibits that grandparents are seeing for the third time — first as children, then as parents, and now again. Small is intent on updating the museums' contents by raising private funds, which he's done in prodigious amounts: \$206 million last year, up \$60 million from the pre-

vious year.  
The difference between the first ladies' exhibit and the American presidency is a small example of what a difference adequate funds can make.  
The first ladies' exhibit is right out of the 1950s, consisting mainly of formal portraits and plaques. The mannequins clad in inaugural gowns don't even look like the women they are supposed to represent.  
The multifaceted presidency exhibit, closer to the 21st century, prominently announces that it was financed by businessman Kenneth Behring, the History Channel, Congress and Chevy Chase Bank, among others.  
Behring gave the Smithsonian \$80 million and earned the right to second billing for the American history museum as the "Behring Center."  
To her credit, when Dowd attacked, she also quoted Small as saying that the first "naming" in exchange for money occurred when James Smithson originally endowed the institution. That was 155 years ago.  
Small has argued, rightly, that four other Smithsonian museums, including the Freer, Hirshhorn and Sackler art galleries, all bear the names of major donors. So do universities such as Yale and Brown.  
In an interview, Small said he'd like to bring Smithsonian history museums up to the standard of the Holocaust Museum, "telling a powerful story using objects, audio, visual, physical settings, three-dimensional exhibits and photographs in compelling, dignified, scholarly researched ways."  
Small has made some mistakes during his 18-month tenure, notably trying to shut down a National Zoo research facility designed to save endangered species and giving one major donor the right to name most members of a panel picking honorees in a "Hall of Achievers" she endowed with \$38 million.  
Overall, though, he's doing the right thing. And Congress should help him.  
Morton Kondracke is executive editor of *Rolling Stone*, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.

## Hats off to the recent letter writers

To the Editor:  
Hats off to Judy Hayden, Shelly Monasmith, Jim Petrachich and Esther Linin for their recent letters. We couldn't have said it better ourselves!  
And now after showing considerable interest in locating in Goodland, the Sears store has been sent down the road to Colby.  
Norman and Shirley Zogg  
Goodland

To the Editor:  
I am eight years old and I think the sunflower



painting is stupid, because you cannot see it from the Interstate.  
The other thing is that it cost too much money, and it caused a traffic problem.  
Mary Katelyn Williams  
Goodland

### from our readers

• to the editor

### 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@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com).