

commentary

from our viewpoint...

Tougher license rules add to driving problems

The Kansas Legislature apparently made a big mistake last year when it decided to keep illegal aliens from getting a driver's license in this state.

The change in the law was prompted by an incident where two Colorado women were caught hauling van loads of illegals to Salina to get licenses. At the time, the state required only proof of a residence here to get one.

Former Sen. Ben Vidriksen of Salina jumped on the issue, and in short order, the Legislature had made it much tougher to get a Kansas license. Examiners now can demand proof of citizenship, something they were formerly not allowed to do.

Foes of immigration, America Firsters, unions and others jumped on the bandwagon. The bill passed, was quickly signed by the governor and everyone agreed it was a Good Idea.

Fast forward, now, to 2001.

Mexican nationals find it tough to get a driver's license, but they keep coming to Kansas. They keep driving. They can't get insurance without a license, so they don't bother.

Police officers say the state is being flooded with uninsured drivers. In Pittsburg, an officer estimates that the number has doubled. Licensed Kansas drivers are complaining that they cannot get paid when an illegal immigrant hits their cars.

Civil rights groups say that legitimate Kansas citizens are being harassed because they look Hispanic or their names sound Hispanic. Driver's license examiners reportedly asked a lawyer from eastern Kansas who has lived in the state all his life to prove he was a citizen. There is no excuse for that.

Non-Hispanics don't have to put up with such demands, the groups say, and it amounts to a form or racial profiling.

No one thinks the number of illegal aliens or the number of illegal aliens driving has gone down since the law passed. People are still coming here; they are still driving; they just don't bother with a driver's license or insurance.

So the Good Idea turned out to be a dud. This law needs to be changed to get people into the system and onto the insurance rolls, no matter what their status. It just makes sense.

It's not the state's responsibility to screen out illegal aliens. The federal government has taken that task on itself, and proven only that it can't be done. Every time they make it tougher to get into the country, the flow of illegals speeds up.

It will be that way as long as there are more and better jobs on this side of the border. The truth is, the American economy can't exist without Mexican labor. Americans don't want to do the jobs the illegals will take — and be happy with.

This is one of those ideas that just won't work. The state needs to give it up. — *Steve Haynes*

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When the chips are down I just quit eating

I stole a couple of Steve's french fries the other day.

They were delicious — hot and salty. I love french fries and I hadn't had any for more than four months.

I've got to admit that I've given up fries, chips and desserts. It's sort of modified diet and over the last four months, I've lost 15 pounds.

DIET is a four-letter word that I usually try to avoid. Tell people that you're on a diet, and they immediately tell you how low-calorie their chocolate-coconut-pecan-upside-down-cream-cake is.

Whenever I go on a diet, I immediately head for the refrigerator to see what I can't eat. With this diet, though, I haven't done that because I'm still chomping down on cheeseburgers and enjoying steak and potatoes. I've dived into fried chicken and put butter on my bread.

What I haven't done is add bacon to the cheeseburger, take a second helping of potatoes or said "sure, supersize that."

I've tried to avoid desserts and since I don't



cynthia haynes

• open season

normally make dessert, that hasn't been too much of a problem.

The real pain has been potato chips. People serve potato chips with everything and Steve and I love chips and dip. But I can't eat just one or two. When I touch a chip, that bag is dead. I'm going to eat them until they're all gone.

So I've just stopped.

I don't know how much longer I will stay away from the all-American diet of cheeseburger, fries and a Coke, but I still have a few pounds more to go.

I decided that it was time to drop the spares when spring arrived and I couldn't fit into more than half of my summer clothes.

Growing up too fast or not at all

We already know about the kid in the Bronx who pitched a perfect game in the Little League World Series, became a TV star overnight, and now, in a twist reeking of backrooms and Tiparillos, is at the center of a cheating scandal. His father allegedly used a fraudulent birth certificate to knock two years off the child's age so he could qualify for the team. The boy apparently is 14 years old, not 12.

In Los Angeles, there is a basketball player named Ray-Ray. He has a killer crossover dribble. He can shoot from anywhere on the court. Sporting-goods companies send him clothing for free and invite him to their basketball camps. Coaches eye him covetously. Ray-Ray is 10 years old.

The adulzination of American children has already reshaped entertainment, language, fashion, sexuality and education. Elementary school children dress and talk like Eminem and Britney Spears. Toddlers look like casual-Friday stockbrokers in their BabyGap khakis and polo shirts. Middle-schoolers get ulcers worrying that their B's in science will mar their college applications.

The Little League scandal offers yet another example of how the adult world has been descending on our kids like a creeping fog. "Baby Boomers want to make sure their kids get one-up," said Dan Gould, a professor of exercise and sport science



joan ryan

• commentary

at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "There's an attitude of professionalization in general, and sports reflects that."

What better way to give your kid an advantage in Little League than lying so he can compete against younger kids? Not only will he excel, he'll excel on national television. ESPN/2 televised the preliminary games of the Little League World Series, and ABC carried the championship live in prime time. Pretty heady stuff for 12-year-olds.

When we view a child's game through the adult lens of ratings and career advancement, adult corruption is sure to follow. How many rules do you suppose will be broken in the next decade as high schools and colleges compete for the services of the amazing Ray-Ray? More important, how many children will lose the experience of playing sports simply for the joy of it as the adults in their lives maneuver and posture and push for advantage?

Community effort made blood drive a success

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all the people from Sherman County and surrounding areas for making the past Red Cross blood drive a great success.

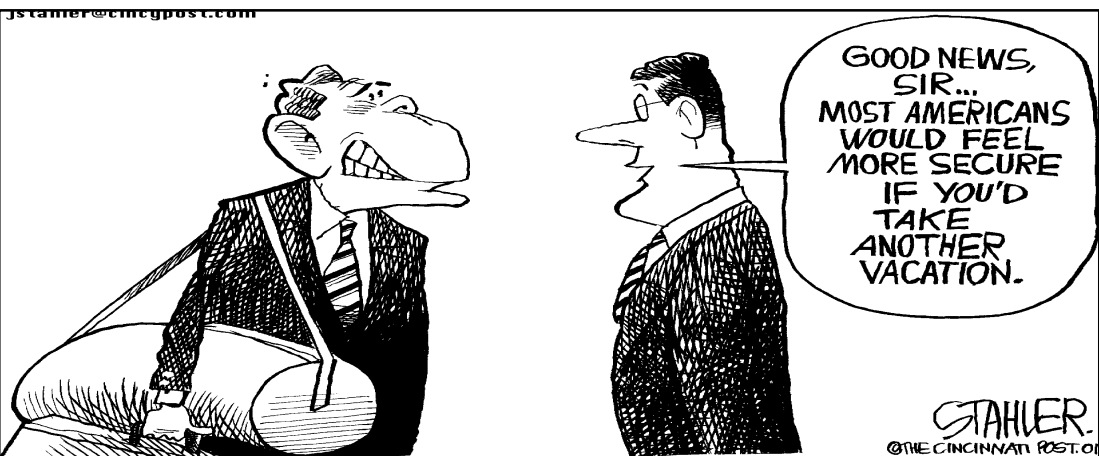
A big thanks to the 29 first time donors, and thanks to all the ladies who worked as escorts, at the receiving desk and canteen for their help. And thanks to KLOE and *The Goodland Daily News* for their coverage.

After all the controversy in the community we came together for this universal need for blood.

Harriet Demaree
Red Cross blood mobile co-chairman

To the Editor:
"Read my lips,..." "I will not use Social Security," sound familiar?

Have you received your \$18 tax rebate yet? The rebate that was supposed to help the working class.



from our readers

• to the editor

The retired chief executive officer of Halliburton Oil, Vice President Dick Cheney, last year made \$36 million. Do you know how much money he'll save due to Bush's tax cut, \$1,700,000.

How about Secretary of Treasurer Paul O'Neill, former chief executive officer of Alcoa, he racked in more than \$60 million. His tax cut windfall, \$3,500,000.

Bush and his cabinet will save \$88 million in tax savings.

Who passed all this tax rebate?

Could it be our Congressmen are becoming

pawns in the hands of a dictator?

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