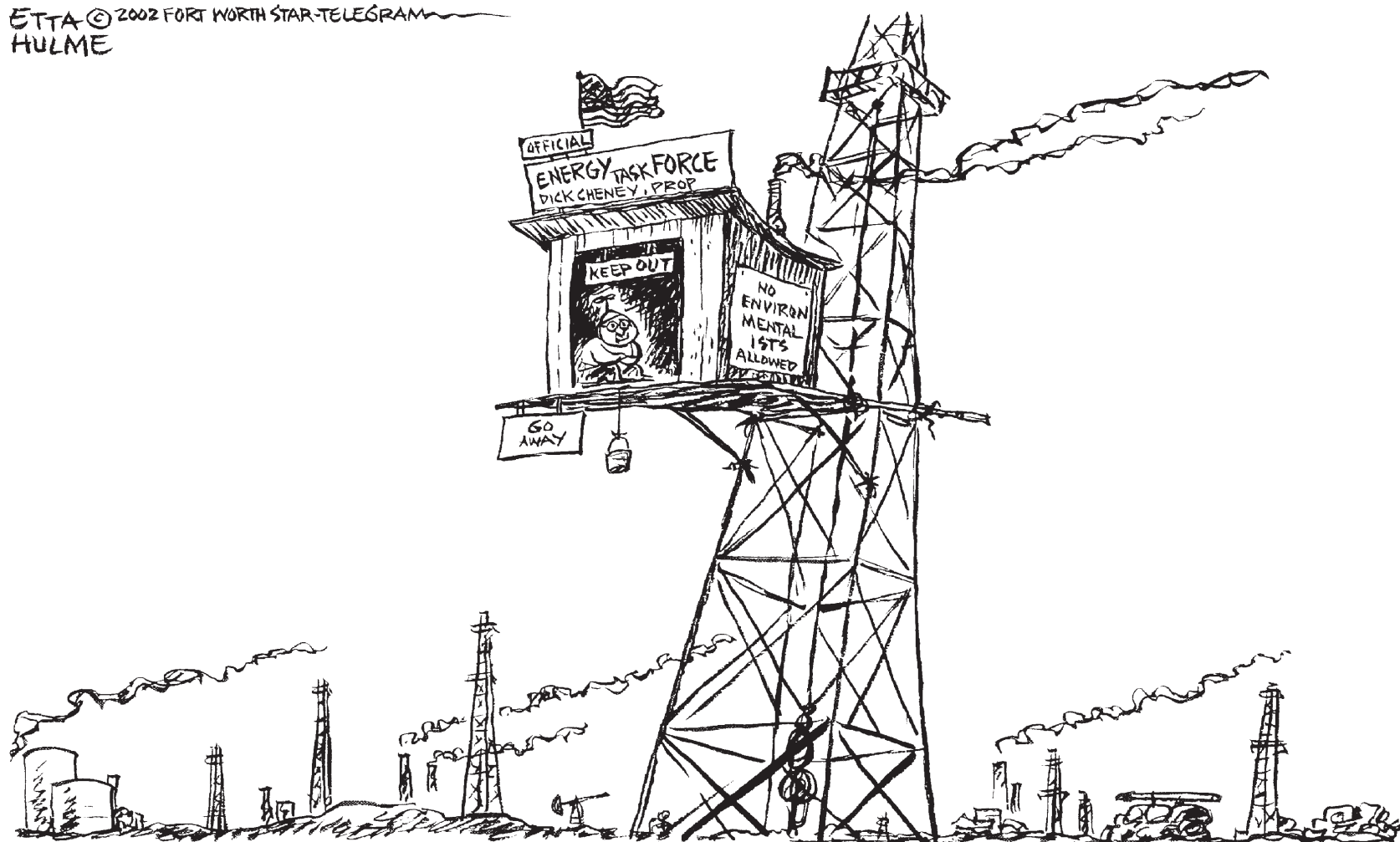


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HULME



# commentary

from other pens...

## Education is hurting on honesty question

**The Garden City Telegram on Piper School District:**  
Christine Pelton is going into the home day-care business. And that's a shame.

Educated as a teacher and obviously embracing the kind of values parents should want in a teacher, Pelton instead has been sullied by the profession by a group of narrow-minded, shady school board members.

Pelton is the teacher who gave failing grades to 28 Piper High School students because it was obvious to her the students plagiarized material on a paper...

The school board, in an insidious effort to forgive the cheating, snuck behind closed doors and decided the grades would be changed...

When the board's secret decision was communicated to Pelton, she quit...

Mike Adams, the school's principal who spent 10 years as a teacher and administrator in Garden City, says he'll resign at the end of the year...

Honesty and integrity are as important as grasping reading, writing and arithmetic, and all the other basics in education.

A teacher saw fit to uphold those values and is tossed aside by the school board. That's abhorrent behavior.

Recently, Garden City officials lamented the difficulty of recruiting quality teachers to the district. They should fuel up their tanks, head over to Piper and tell Pelton and Adams there's a home here for both, because that's the type of person students should have standing in front of them.

**The Emporia Gazette on 2002 farm bill:**

Most hope the 2002 farm bill will be fair for agricultural producers - a farm bill that provide a safety net, yet not encourage overproduction. But some wonder why it is taking so long to approve. ...

And ... the question still looms whether or not farm-bill conferees will agree on a plan in time to affect 2002 crops.

The length of the entire process already seems long, and could become longer as the House-Senate conference committee goes on Easter recess. Making a decision when they come back in April might be too late - maybe pushing back the implementation date as late as this summer.

Frustrated that nothing had been completed, Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts proposed legislation Thursday to extend the current law, but with a boost in payments. He said time has run out for those wondering if the 2002 bill affect this year's crops.

Roberts' \$7.35 billion farm-assistance plan is guarantee assistance above last year's levels if Congress does not finish a new bill in time for it to apply to 2002 crops.

On Tuesday, conferees issued a statement saying they struck an agreement on the needed framework to meet their completion goal of early April. ...

Everyone is just anxious for something to take place - something that might help the slumping farm economy.

But instead of rushing to beat the clock ... maybe taking a closer look at Roberts' package isn't a bad idea.

As long as the \$73.5 billion isn't lost.

## You may not remember me, but I was there!

I don't know about you, but I experienced Easter this year.

In the midst of it, I wrote *I WAS THERE*.

I was there.

I was there when the crowd that had cheered him days earlier cried for his crucifixion.

I was there when the man Jesus carried his burden to the hill.

I was there when the nails were driven into his wrists. I could also feel his pain.

I was there when they mocked him with a sign that said "King of the Jews."

I saw it all.

I was there.

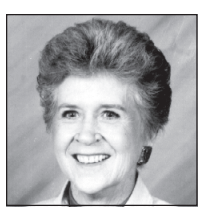
I was there and saw the soldiers throw dice for his cloak.

I was there to see most of his followers hanging at the edge of the crowd, looking bewildered.

I was there to see his mother's tears - and to see her quietly say goodbye.

I was there when the dying man asked another man to accept the woman as his own mother.

I saw it all.



**lorna g. t.**

• commentary

I was there.

I was there and heard every word he uttered as he suffered the slow, agonizing death.

I was there when a kind soul offered him vinegar wine to ease the pain, and he refused to be drugged.

I was there to feel the earthquake and see the darkness that covered the whole earth, the eerie darkness while it was still day.

I was there when the crowd grew silent, questioning what they had done.

I saw it all.

I was there.

I heard him forgive the criminal at his side. What manner of man can do that?

I saw the crowd slink away, trying to distance

themselves from it all.

I think I witnessed the most horrible event in the history of humankind.

I wondered what it was all about, yet somehow knew nothing would be the same again.

I knew I would never be the same. I couldn't be; I'd seen too much. Because I saw it all. I was there.

Until that day, I was big and strong and proud of my stature. But because of that day, I became ashamed of all those things. Without my permission, I was made into something God never intended for me.

It wasn't my choice, but I was there.

Without me, it might never have happened as it did. That day I felt used, despised, and I hated myself.

I was party to the whole disgusting scene. I became an object of scorn and hate. But with time, maybe I will grow more acceptable.

Perhaps, with God's grace, I too will be forgiven and even become an inspiration.

I was there. I saw it all.

Maybe you know me. My name is Cross.

## With your support we are successful

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Goodland High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter, we sincerely thank all the businesses who sponsored the community page in *The Goodland Daily News* on Feb. 22.

The chapter is constantly working on community service projects, school projects and individual projects. It was neat to be recognized in the newspaper.

The chapter is going to the state meeting in Wichita on Monday and Tuesday. Nineteen members will compete in state competition and approximately 50 will be attending the meeting.

Without your tremendous support we wouldn't have been as successful. It means a lot to us.

Andrea Fenner  
Chapter secretary



**from our readers**

• to the editor

basic wants and needs.

Through a cooperative effort, it is possible for the small businesses, "Mom and Pop" shops, to co-exist with the large merchandising giants. Will it be easy? No! Nothing worthwhile has never come without a price to be paid, but the possibility exists and now would be an excellent time to seize the opportunity presented.

Dan L. Golden  
Goodland

To the Editor

This is directed to the governing bodies of our community:

There have been a lot of things going on recently in our town (finger pointing and name calling) regarding the recent shutdown of our landfill. I, for one, am sick and tired of the bickering back and forth between the two governing bodies.

I feel it is time that all of you pull your heads out, and come up with a solution to this very simple so-called problem. If the lot of you are unable to figure out something as simple as dumping trash, this should be a loud call for concern regarding your ability to make sound judgments regarding matters that really count concerning this community.

Although certain rules must be followed regarding the dumping of solid waste, the state does not require all the strict and stringent rules and regulations you are trying to force down our throats. With the amount of money that is assessed through taxes and city billing, not to mention additional fees collected at the gate, you would think that the working man would be able to do an honest days work and not have the hassle of trying to dump a little trash that he has already paid you to be allowed to dump.

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and 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>.

## The Goodland Daily News

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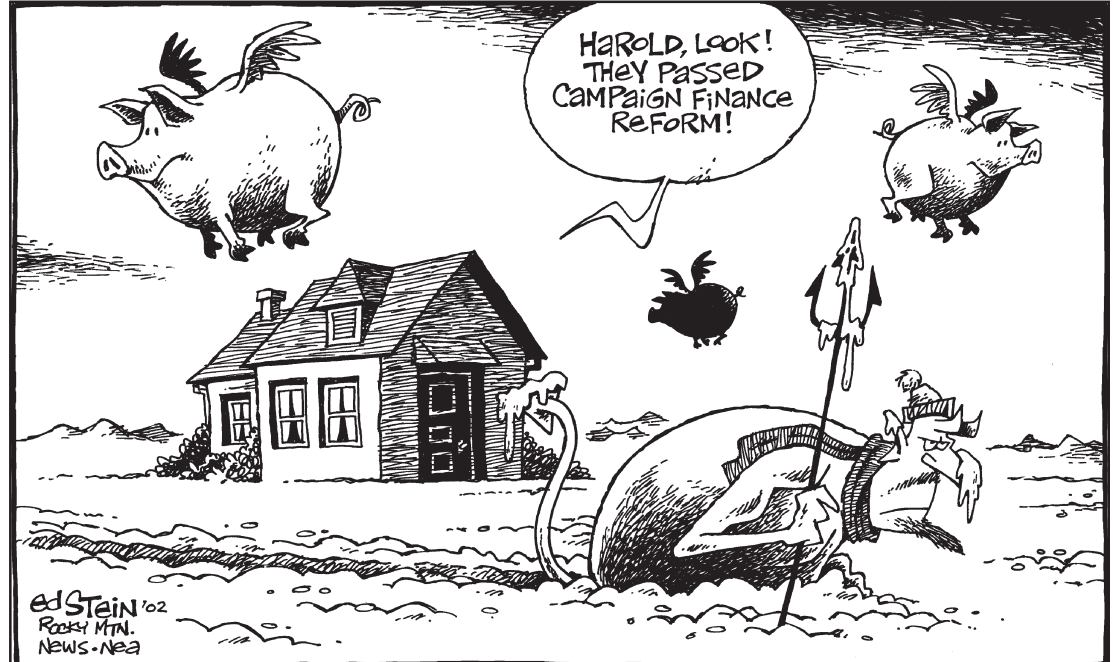
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