

commentary

from other pens...

Voluntary sign-ups down for Kansas selective service

Lawrence Journal-World on draft sign-up:

In many ways, the American system of all-volunteer armed forces has been a success. Not so favorable has been the citizenry's response to the voluntary Selective Service sign-ups by young men when they reach age 18.

There was a feeling that such reluctance might change after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist strikes. It hasn't...

Kansas' compliance rate for age-18 Selective Service sign-ups fell 5 percentage points from 2000 to 2001. ... Main and Montana also had a 5-point decrease for the same period, and Rhode Island led the way among the 50 states with a drop of 6 percentage points.

... Federal law says most men living in the United States must register with the SS within 30 days of their 18th birthday. The goal is to know who might be available in an emergency. There has been no draft since 1973.

Even though it had a decrease of signees in the past year, Kansas' compliance rate of 86 percent is the same as the national average, which also dropped in 2001, but only by 1 percentage points. That is not reassuring. ...

There already are efforts to reinstate the military draft to make sure our military might is all it should be. Even better, however, in light of today's many threats, would be a universal military training plan. It could have every person 18 and beyond serving a full year of active duty and then staying on reserve status for say another five years. ...

A well-run universal military training program for both males and females could pay untold dividends and perhaps prevent more Pearl Harbors and 9-11s.

Great Bend Tribune on farming for fuel:

It doesn't take a genius to recognize that the world could use a new fuel source — one that is renewable and could step in where petroleum has reigned for years.

Even though it doesn't take a genius, there was a group of them who gathered recently in Sweden just to come up with that suggestion.

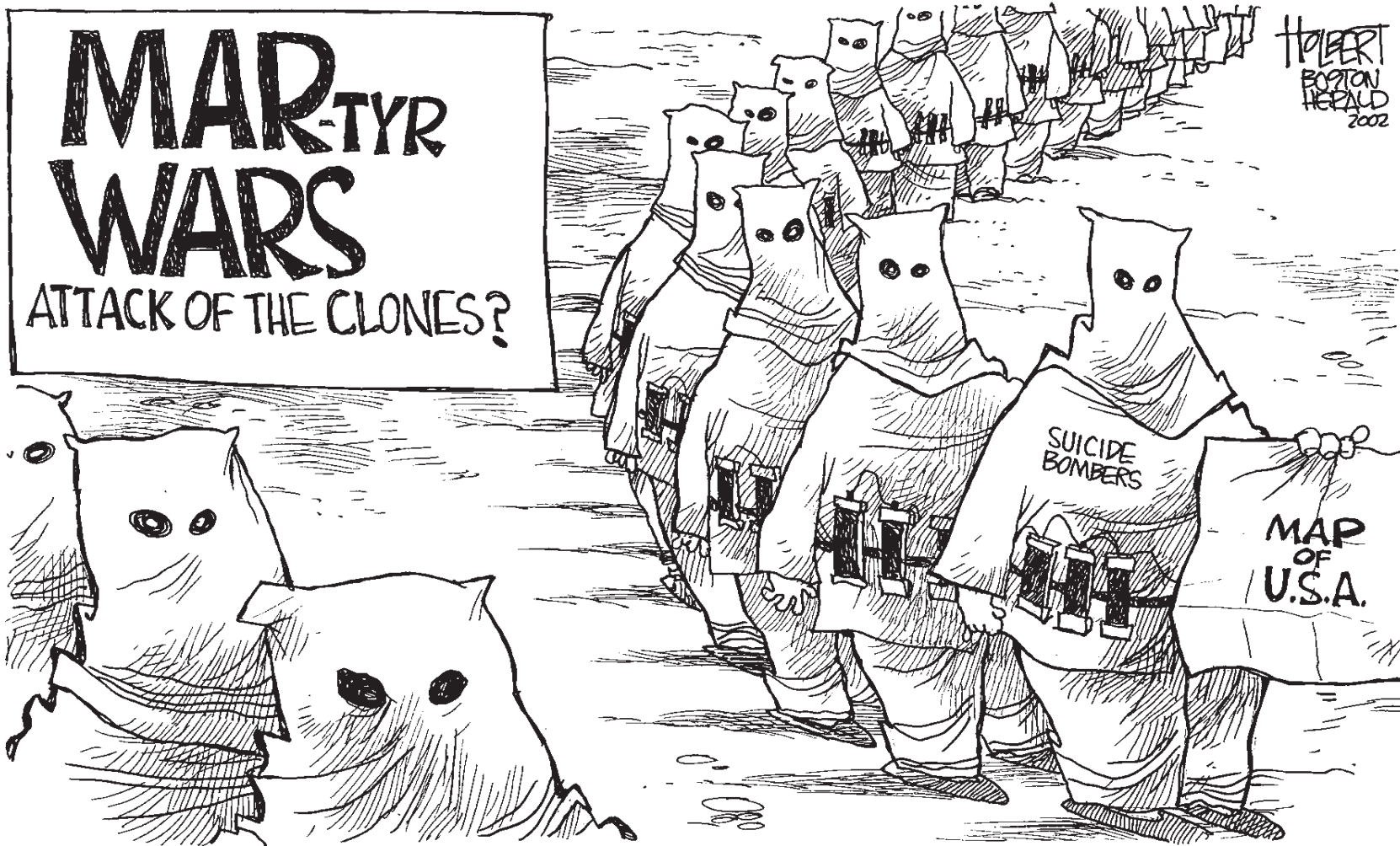
These folks argue that the world's oil supply will peak and then begin to drop off in 2010, and that a prime culprit for its precipitous use is the U.S.

Of course we are.

We use a large amount of energy because of the way we live. We like to be cool in the summer and warm in the winter. We want to get in our own car and head out whenever we choose. And we do tend to be wasteful.

We can solve some of that, the waste part, that is. And we should. The rest is dependent on us finding alternative fuels, preferably renewable ones. That is where the American farmer comes in. We need to develop alcohol fuels based on renewable plants, because we have the folks, already on the payroll, who can produce those plants.

Our geniuses are great at pointing out the obvious problems. Let's get them to work on this obvious solution.



You have a three-day right to cancel a contract

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

Last week I purchased a service from a local business here in town. I went to the business on a Wednesday morning, signed a contract for a year's service, and agreed to a monthly fee. After discussing the contract with my wife, she and I decided we could get a better deal elsewhere. When I went back to the business on Friday, the manager would not let me cancel the service. I told him Kansas has a three-day right to cancel, but he said that does not apply when a consumer goes to the business. Attorney General Stovall, when does a three-day right to cancel apply?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

This is a question my office receives often. While many of us don't think of it this way, each time we go to a business and purchase goods or services we have entered into a contract. Kansas law generally regards a contract as binding upon competent parties. Unless a specific statutory or other legal principle provides to the contrary, there is no "right to cancel".

Kansas does have a "door-to-door" sales statute, K.S.A. 50-640, which provides that a consumer does have a right to cancel transactions of \$25 or more within three business days. The consumer



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

must be given oral and written notification of the right to cancel and a completed receipt or copy of the contract. It must also have a statement in bold-face, informing the consumer of the three-day right to cancel.

In general, "door-to-door" sale means a sale, lease or rental of consumer property or services that occurs at a place other than the supplier's regular place of business. For example, if you are considering joining a fitness club and drive to one or more clubs, review the facilities and then purchase a membership while you are at a club, no three day right to cancel will apply.

If, however, you are walking through the mall, notice a temporary booth advertising fitness club memberships and decide to sign up on the spot, the three-day right to cancel does apply and the club must provide you with oral and written notification

of that right to cancel.

The law does not apply to sales at a person's home when the consumer has initiated the transaction and specifically requested the supplier visit for the purpose of repairing or performing maintenance upon the consumer's real or personal property. Further, sales made at the State Fairgrounds between an authorized vendor and a consumer are not subject to the three-day right to cancel.

If you have purchased an item in which you believe you should have been given a three-day right to cancel and you were not, contact my office at 1-800-432-2310 or (785) 296-3751 and a consumer complaint form will be sent 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 your call will be returned promptly.

where to write

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774
- 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
- State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

Help saves lives, give at Red Cross blood drive

To the Editor:

Wednesday Goodland is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive. The drive will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church 12th and Sherman from Noon to 5:30 P.M.

The power of one single blood donation is amazing. Three components can be extracted from a single donation, enabling a blood donor to help three different patients. When you donate blood, you make the difference in many lives. Not only do you make the difference in the life of the patient receiving your blood, but the many lives linked to that patient.

It is estimated that every two seconds someone in the United States receives a blood transfusion. Please help the Red Cross meet the needs of hospital patients throughout our region. If you are in general good health, at least 17 years of age and weigh 110 pounds or more, I hope you will consider taking time out of your busy schedule to donate blood. By giving a small amount of your time, you can make the difference for a cancer patient, a bum victim or someone needing surgery.

Most medications are not cause for deferral. Those with diabetes or high blood pressure may donate as long as their condition is controlled by medication and they are feeling well that day. Potential donors are reminded to drink plenty of fluids prior to their donation.

For more information on donating blood, how to volunteer or to schedule an appointment, please call Martha Gunderson at 785-899-5933.

Luella Richardson
Publicity Chairman

To the Editor:

I am Amanda Hoffman, a junior at Goodland High School, and the newly elected State President for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), formerly known as Future Homemakers of America.

Many schools throughout Kansas are involved in FCCLA in many ways. There are over 6,000 members in Kansas. Through this club, students learn how to become self-confident, create stronger homes, and become prepared for life after school.

The central focus of FCCLA is the family, therefore most of the community service projects we do, involve the family. In Goodland we hold a project once a month called Little Brother/ Little Sister. For one hour, young children go to the high school and do crafts, games, and eat snacks with "the big kids," also identified as high school members.

Another service project our chapter does is Adopt a Family. For one year we help a family in our community that is having trouble. Members give this family a gift each month ranging from money we make by having a date auction, to a basket of goodies containing paper goods, toys, and food. To give back to a wider variety of our community we have an activity called Highway Clean



from our readers

• to the editor

Up. Members gather together and clean up a two-mile stretch of the highway to make our town a more attractive place.

FCCLA also offers students the opportunity to gain positive life skills in a healthy competitive environment called Students Taking Action for Recognition event. Members develop skills for the future in events such as Job interview (a pretend interview including resume, portfolio, and actual one on one questioning), Parliamentary procedure (teaches students how to hold a professional business meeting), Creed (improves speaking and interpretation skills), and many more. Not only do members compete, but if they qualify at the District, State, or National levels, they get to travel across the state or even the country!

FCCLA is creating a positive firm foundation for young men and women who will rise up and lead this country. We are learning early how to be the future leaders of America and make a positive difference in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities.

Thank you for taking time to read about the positive things American teenagers are doing for our world!

Amanda L. Hoffman
Kansas State President

To the Editor:

I absolutely agree with the story that said it is the responsibility of individuals to attend the meetings which concern them. Not enough people go. How are we to remain free from apathetic and disillusioned leadership if we do not keep an eye on our officials?

We need to watch them. They are not bad people,

and they serve from honest intentions, but as they say, power corrupts.

I know a city commissioner isn't the most powerful of people, but even a baby rottweiler has sharp teeth, and has to be hit on the nose occasionally for biting his owner. If Mayor Tom Rohr and his commissioner cronies do something we don't like, they should receive a whack from a rolled-up newspaper.

There is nothing more powerful than the voice of the people. I don't think the commission would like too many people to show up at the meetings, but that's too bad. It's part of the job they took.

And they have done several things which I know I don't like. They passed a law which says I can't park my motor home on the street, a street my tax money pays for, in front of a home I own, and pay taxes on.

They raised rates on electricity, when my bill is already outrageous. And they keep complaining about having to separate their trash. They seem to forget that they used to own a dump, and that their management of it probably caused the water contamination we are all so worried about now.

Yes. We should go to the meetings. We should stand tall, and tell them what we want. After all, they are supposed to represent us.

Walter Murray
Goodland

berry's world



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"I ASKED MY GIRL FRIEND TO BAKE ME A CAKE WITH A FILE IN IT."

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