

# commentary

from other pens...

## Statue, artwork give Graves tangible legacy

**The Garden City Telegram on Graves legacy:**  
First it was the sculpture for the Capitol dome, now there's another piece of art that promises to give Gov. Bill Graves a tangible legacy. A nonprofit preservation group has commissioned the first piece of public art at Cedar Crest, the governor's residence in Topeka. The subject of the sculpture is a young boy and girl climbing a split-rail fence. The boy being used as the model for the artwork is the neighbor of artist Jim Brothers. The girl is Katie Graves, the daughter of the governor himself...

Long after he's vacated his office, people might not remember the financial crisis that haunted Graves' last two years in office. They might not recall how the governor insisted upon spending nearly a million bucks to reinforce the Capitol dome so a bronze statue by a fellow Salina native could be put up there — even as the state was being forced to cut services to the elderly.

But what will be remembered is that Bill Graves was the father of the girl who was the inspiration for the Cedar Crest sculpture. No doubt, that fact will be emblazoned on some plaque that gives the history of the artwork.

There's no harm in such legacies — especially ones that won't cost any tax dollars. In the meantime, though, someone ought to tell the governor that taking care of old folks is more important than being the governor who helped get that big statue on top of the dome.

**The Iola Register on school vouchers:**  
Thursday's 5-4 decision by the Supreme Court that public money can be used to subsidize nonpublic schools, including those run by churches, energized Sen. Kay O'Connor of Olathe.

Sen. O'Connor — she's the lady who believes women would be better off if they hadn't won the vote — has been trying unsuccessfully to get voucher legislation passed in Kansas. Jubilant at the news from Washington, she promised she would try again when the 2003 Legislature convenes...

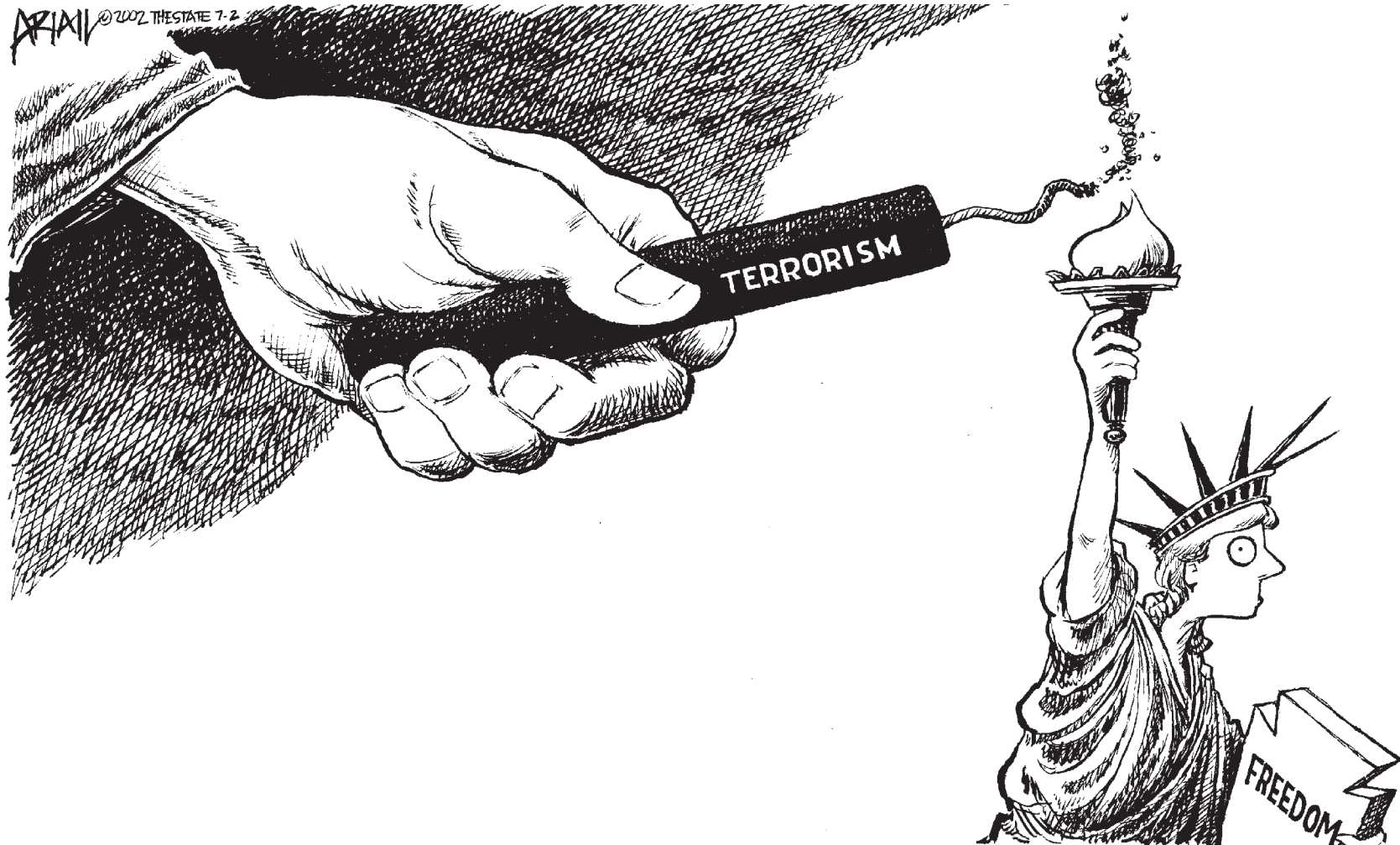
It is difficult to imagine the Kansas Legislature legalizing and funding vouchers while the public schools of the state are under such financial stress... It is clear that public funds should not be spent primarily to provide religious instruction.

It should also be clear that it is the state's responsibility to provide a suitable education in a safe and disciplined environment to every Kansas child... Adopting a school voucher program would lower public school enrollments, reduce public school funding and make it that much more difficult for the state's 303 school districts to reach the level of excellence the law demands, the children of Kansas deserve and to which its leaders are pledged.

School vouchers may be legal; they are anything but desirable.

### 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
- Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767



## Law does not require stores to refund money

Dear Attorney General Stovall:  
I recently bought a shirt from a new local clothing store, but upon returning home I discovered that it did not match the pants I had planned to wear with it. I went back to the store a week later in an attempt to return the shirt and get my money back. The manager said the store did not offer refunds for returned merchandise, only exchanges or store credit, even though I had my receipt and had purchased the shirt the previous week. Attorney General Stovall, does the law allow a store to refuse to offer refunds, even if the customer has a receipt and the purchase was made recently? Dear Kansas Consumer:  
If the purchased merchandise is free of defects and the sale was otherwise free from deception or unfair acts by the seller, a store is not required to



**carla j. stovall**

● consumer corner

issue a refund to a consumer. The store's refund policy should be posted in a clear and conspicuous location so that consumers are fully informed about the policy. If consumers do not see a store's policy posted, they should ask about refunds or returns before entering into any transaction. A store may even choose not to issue refunds, exchanges or credit if the product is free of defects.

Additionally, some stores that do offer cash refunds may wait for a certain time period to issue a refund if a consumer has paid with a check, which is usually done to protect the store against bad checks. 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.

## Bible details formation of Christian congregation

In my last four columns, I have been counting down the top 10 reasons everyone should read the Bible. Reason no. 10 is that it contains the only account of earth's creation; reason no. 9 is that it moves hearts; no. 8 is that it is the only guide to religious truth; and no. 7 is that it is a guide book for living and teaches lessons about life. This week's column deals with the no. 6 reason: the Bible chronicles the formation of the Christian congregation. A large number of people all over the world, and nearly everyone here in Goodland, profess to be Christians. But how many people know how the Christian congregation was originally formed? Why it was formed? And what its formation has to do with us today? What does the Bible say about the formation of the Christian congregation? The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians the words in Ephesians 2:20, "You have been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone."



**sharon corcoran**

● use it or lose it

Verses 5-7 tell us that Jesus gave his new apostles an assignment: "These 12 Jesus sent forth, giving them these orders: 'Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a Samaritan city; but, instead, go continually to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.''" Jesus sent his disciples to preach, at that time to the Israelites, and later everyone on earth would be included as Matthew 28:19, 20 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you." If we are Christians, we are disciples of Jesus and should obey the commandments he gave his disciples, including the commandment to preach and to teach. Jesus taught individuals and large crowds during his lifetime, and his disciples helped him with that work. After Jesus died and was resurrected, he spoke to his disciples to let them know they were to continue this work and to help them understand that he was going to heaven to be with his Father. Although he had told the disciples this before, it was difficult for them to understand. Luke 24:45-48 says of one of these occasions, "Then he opened up their minds fully to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures, and he said to them: 'In this way it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from among the dead on the third day, and on the basis of his name repentance for forgiveness of sins would be preached in all the nations — starting out from Jerusalem, you are to be witnesses of these things.'" Verses 50-52 describe Jesus' ascension to heaven with his disciples looking on. The book Acts of the Apostles tells of many occasions when Jesus' disciples preached, times when they were persecuted and times when people took what they said to heart and joined them in teaching others about Jesus. They joined the Christian congrega-

tion. The congregation was an organized one as evidenced in Acts 15:1-3, "And certain men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers: 'Unless you get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Barnabas with them, they arranged for Paul and Barnabas and some others of them to go up to the apostles and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute." The first century Christians did not just develop their own ideas about worshipping God. They were taught by Jesus until after his death and then by other Christians. They learned from the scriptures and some of them recorded further portions of the Bible. They also sought guidance from the older men in Jerusalem on matters not already addressed in the scriptures. Stories of their preaching, their working with each other and of the decisions made by the men in Jerusalem are included in the Bible for our benefit. As to why the Christian congregation was formed, it replaced the nation of Israel as God's people. The nation of Israel was in a covenant relationship with God to be his servants, but they disobeyed him many times, most egregiously when most of the Israelites rejected his own son. The Christian congregation originally was made up only of Jews, but after the Jews put Jesus to death, Samaritans and then Gentiles were welcomed into the congregation. The Christians replaced the Israelite nation as God's people. Christians today can do the work that Jesus' disciples did by preaching to others and teaching them from the Bible. They and those who listen will have the opportunity to benefit from God's promise at 2 Peter 3:13: "But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell."

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