

from our viewpoint...

‘Home rule’ powers open Sunday sales

Back east, Kansas cities tired of seeing liquor sales and the accompanying taxes flow across the state line have started a rebellion.

They’ve declared “home rule” power over liquor sales, claiming that liquor law don’t apply uniformly to all cities and counties. And if a state law is not uniform, then a city or county can exempt itself.

Now stores in several Kansas cities are brazenly selling booze on Sundays. Next thing you know, they’ll be opening the beer joints and bars.

And while this may not be the greatest thing to happen to the state in the new century, it is a long-overdue change.

Kansas liquor stores are a state-licensed monopoly with little competition over service or prices. This helps make things easier for store owners, but can only hurt customers.

It’s just not the state’s place to say what prices stores can charge or when they can be open. In a free-enterprise economy, store owners ought to make those decisions.

One Missouri liquor dealer told reporters that being open on Sundays wasn’t all that great, though the huge billboard over his store advertising Sunday sales might belie his modesty.

He said Kansas liquor store owners had things pretty good, with the regulated competition and set hours, and might regret a more liberal law. He said it’d be only a matter of time until other restraints to competition fall, and predicted that few Kansas stores will make money on Sundays.

Nonetheless, the floodgates are open now. It’s like the days in the 1960s after the courts struck down the general Sunday closing law when the Safeway chain defied it. Today, retailing is rampant on Sundays, though many merchants probably regret that.

Only a few Sunday closing laws remain — car dealers, through their licensing board, have a strong union that keeps them closed, for instance.

The state really should get out of the business of regulating store hours and days. The only reasons for it are to suppress competition, to the detriment of consumers, or to enforce religious preferences. Neither is a valid state objective.

Changing the liquor sales ban is an admission at least that the state really can’t keep people from shopping when they want to. For years, state liquor agents have tried to catch people bringing Missouri (or Nebraska) potables across the border. But for every guy caught with a trunkload of hooch, 99 got through.

It’s like sticking a finger in a leak while others spring up all around. Did you ever hear of anyone you know getting busted running wine from Nebraska on a Sunday? Us either.

This is not an issue that will make or break anyone in Kansas. Things may not change much except in the Kansas City area for the next few years, but change is coming — whether we like it or not. — *Steve Haynes*

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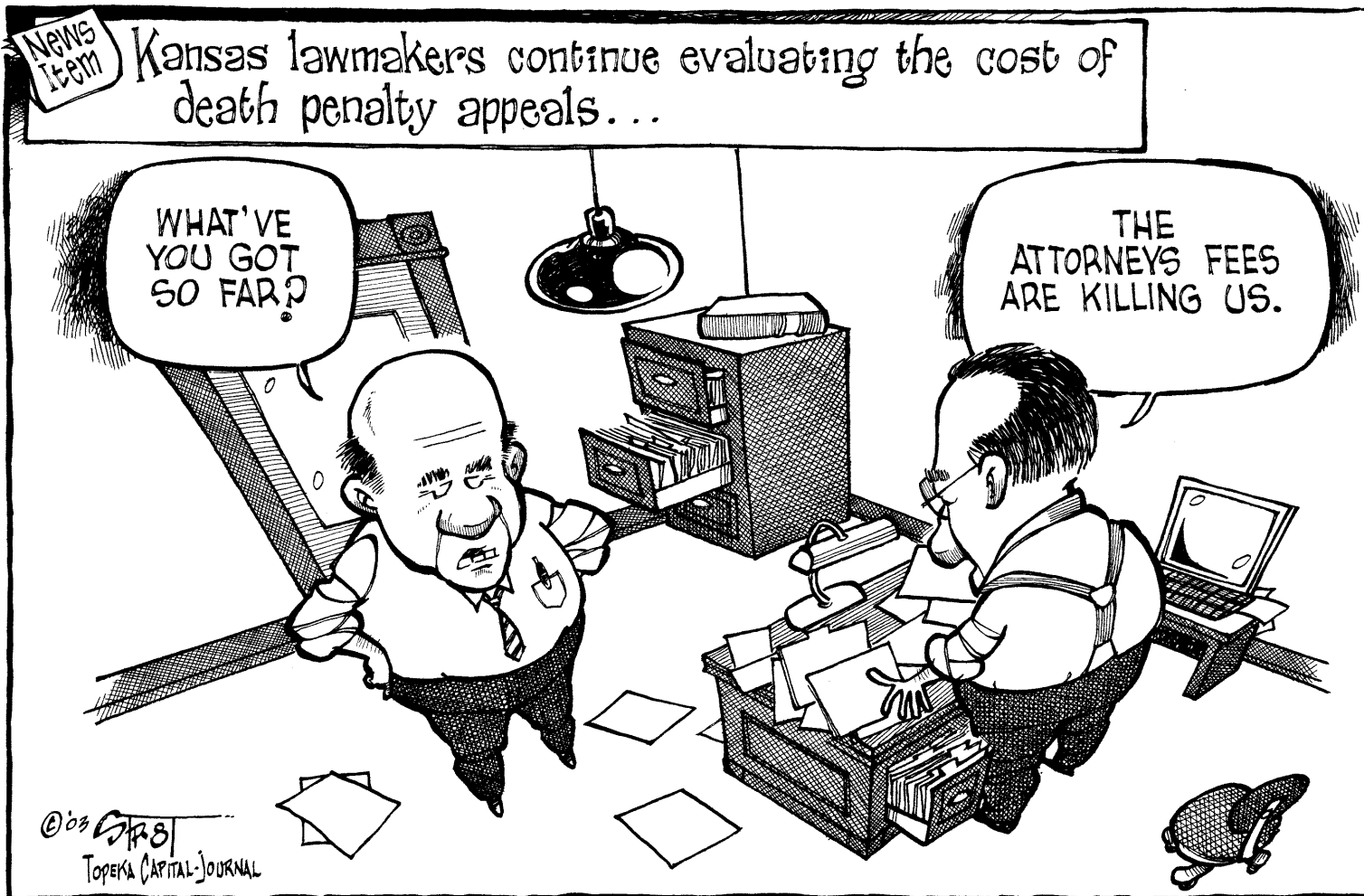
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Cats spending the summer on the road

Youngest daughter has been rather careless with her cats this last month. She has picked them up and dropped them off across two states.

It all started when she stopped by our house on the way to her summer job in Colorado. She brought her two cats — Jez and Rupert.

Since she was staying a couple of days, she let the cats out of their carriers. They met our three cats and there was magic in the air. Unfortunately, it was black magic. They hated each other on sight.

Still, within a couple of days, all was calm.

Then it was time to repack the visitors for the next leg of the trip from Lawrence to Creede, Colo.

Jez was caught and caged, but Rupert was nowhere to be found.

After searching high and low, daughter finally abandoned her to a few more weeks in enemy territory.



cynthia haynes

• open season

Here she stayed until daughter came back through on the way back to Lawrence for some meetings and a doctor’s appointment about three weeks later.

This time, Rupert was caught, caged and on her way.

Jez was left behind in Creede because it didn’t seem a good idea to cart her across two states when daughter only planned to be gone four days. A friend promised to check on her to make sure there was plenty of food and water available.

However, once in Lawrence, nothing much went right. The four days turned into three

weeks. Calls were made to cat sitter and neighbors, asking them to check on both cat and a bunch of newly purchased house plants.

Finally, daughter and Rupert were able to head back for Creede. There they were greeted by one very lonely, very lovey Jez.

Peace was short, however. Less than a week later, friends from Lawrence showed up. While one just wanted to spend a couple of days in the mountains, the other one, Rachel, will spend the rest of the summer waiting tables at a sandwich shop during the day and at the bar by night.

Since she is staying for the rest of the summer, Rachel brought her cats — Mamma and a trio of three-week-old kittens.

Now the house in Colorado is overrun with cats.

I can’t wait for vacation time so I can get out there and see them all. I love cats, after all.

Forbidden fruit was disobedience, not sex act

Many people believe the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve were banned from the Garden of Eden for taking refers to the couple having sex. Does the Bible indicate whether or not that is the case?

Genesis 2:17, 18 tells us Adam was commanded not to eat of the fruit before Eve was even created: “but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die. Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”

Does it make sense for God to give Adam a commandment not to have sex with a woman when none existed yet?

And Adam and Eve weren’t even together when she partook of the fruit. Genesis 3:6 says, “So the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.”

Further, Genesis 1:27, 28 says that God commanded Adam and Eve to have children: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.’”

Would it make sense for God to command Adam and Eve not to have sex and then command them to have children? Of course not! If He did, that would mean God gave them two commandments knowing they could not possibly keep them both. And He would have been contradicting himself.

Furthermore, God indicated later in the Bible that children are a blessing from Him, not a result of sin. Psalm 127:3-5 says, “Lo, sons are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!”

The Bible further indicates the reasonable view that a husband and wife would enjoy



sharon corcoran

• use it or lose it

sexual relations, and that having such a relationship would help a couple to avoid temptation.

1 Corinthians 7:2, 3 and 5 says, “But because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. Do not refuse one another except perhaps by agreement for a season, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, lest Satan tempt you through lack of self-control.”

Wouldn’t it be unkind of God, to say the least, to create mankind with the capacity to enjoy sex and then command them never to have it? But that is not the case. It is Satan who tempts people to do what is wrong, not God who gives conflicting commands and desires that are to never be satisfied.

So, if Adam and Eve were supposed to have sex and bear children, what was the sin for which they were cast out of the Garden of Eden?

Romans 5:12, 19 says, “Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and death spread to all men because all men had sinned. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

The sin was disobedience. Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s commandment not to eat of the tree. He had created them perfect, with no wrong tendencies, and gave them everything they needed and many things to enjoy. They had no reason not to do what He asked of them.

Nonetheless, Eve listened to a serpent and

began desiring what did not belong to her. And fulfilling her desire was more important to her than God’s commandment.

What can we learn from this?

John 4:23, 24 says, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

God sets the standard for how he is to be worshipped. He gave us the Bible so we would know what that standard is. Since Adam passed sin on to all mankind, we cannot worship God perfectly, but we can learn from the Bible how to best obey God.

If we don’t try to learn or refuse to obey God’s commandments, we will be like Adam and Eve and will be cast out when God’s kingdom comes, as Jesus taught his followers to pray for in Matthew 6:10. The verse then says we should pray for God’s will to come on earth.

That would not happen if people were forever allowed to do whatever they choose with no regard for God’s will. We have to choose to do God’s will or we will be among those destroyed when 2 Peter 3:7 is fulfilled: “But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

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