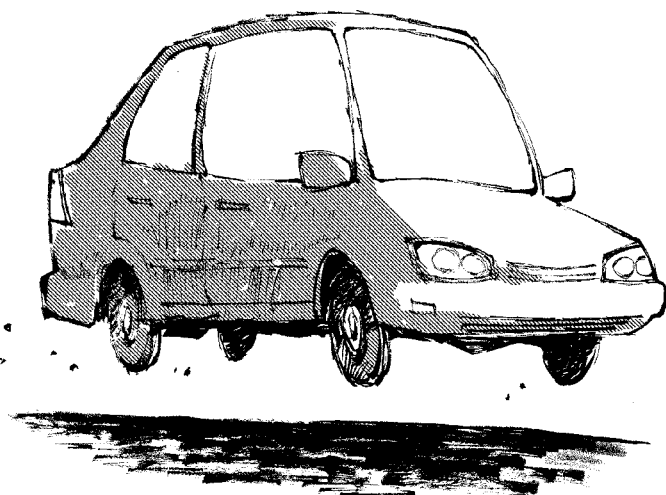
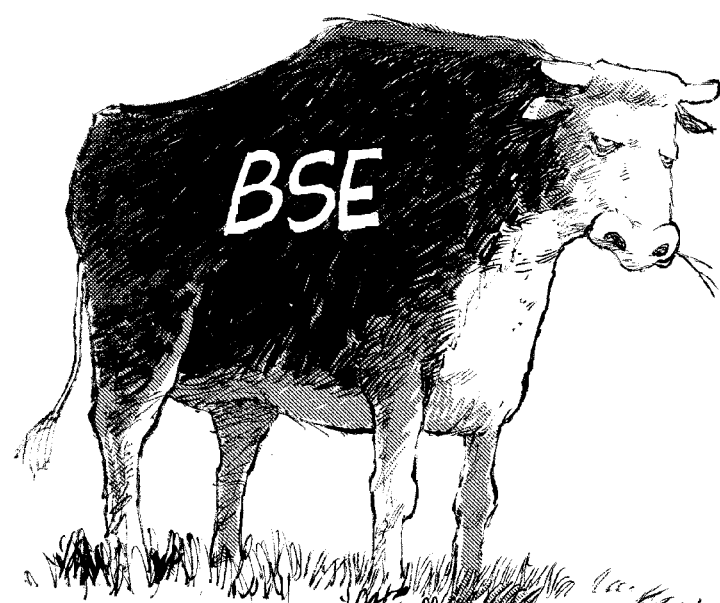


## REALITY CHECK...



THIS KILLED 42,643 AMERICANS IN 2003



THIS HAS KILLED 0

## Daughter is real heartbreaker

Youngest daughter is an infamous heart-breaker.

At 27, she has dated and discarded more beaus than Elizabeth Taylor. It's not that she's mean. She's just picky.

She's willing to date any guy that seems nice or interesting, but if, after a week or a month, it isn't working out, she dumps them.

I know of at least two young men who have followed her back to Lawrence after summer break only to find themselves with an education, but no girl.

Last year, she decided it was time to make a change. She was still young and single, and after nine years in Lawrence, she decided to go somewhere new and fresh, so she enrolled in the University of South Carolina's graduate school.

It was only later that we found out there were a few ulterior motives for picking Columbia, S.C., as her new home.

We already knew that Columbia is only an hour's drive from Augusta, Ga., where her big sister Felicia and brother-in-law Nik live.

It's also the home of Bradley Harrison Blake, a young man who works for big sister at Morris Digital Works.

Mom and Dad got into big trouble for describing Brad as "some guy Lindsay's dating"



cynthia  
haynes

• open season

in the annual Christmas letter.

Apparently, when youngest daughter went to Augusta to visit her sister last spring, there was a party at Nik and Felicia's. Lindsay and Brad were introduced, and the two hit it off.

After all the other guests had left and Nik and Felicia gone to bed, Lindsay and Brad sat on the front porch and talked into the night.

I know this, because Nik and Felicia said they kept creeping to the window to see if they were still on the porch.

Aren't chaperones wonderful?

All the rest of the school year and through the summer, Lindsay and BHB kept in touch and talked on the phone — for hours and hours.

Now that Lindsay has moved to Columbia, she and her beau call each other every night and they get together every weekend.

So during Christmas break, after getting into trouble over the Christmas letter, I figured I'd better find out more about this young man. Her father obviously wasn't doing his job of giv-

ing the kid the third degree.

Bradley is from Chicago, I learned. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a double major in journalism and computer science.

So far so good. He's from the Midwest. He's a Big 12 graduate and he's got a journalism degree.

He's tall by our standards, 5 foot, 10 inches, and skinny. Why do short women always pick the tall men? He has dark hair and eyes and a little goatee.

His parents have moved to Phoenix and he has a sister, Catherine, who is a senior in high school.

He likes cats but is allergic to them, and he won't eat his vegetables.

Lindsay's working on the vegetables and I got the cats.

No, mother, he's not Catholic.

This may be serious, but they haven't gotten to the take-each-other-home-to-meet the family stage yet, so we'll see.

Oldest daughter says he's a great guy. The only problem she sees is if the two decide to make this permanent, she'll have to move him to another department, and she doesn't want to lose one of her best Internet code writers.

## State treasurer sets out legislative agenda

As we ring in the New Year, the Legislative Session is about to begin.

There will be many new legislators at the Capitol to greet and many returning legislators to welcome back.

The Kansas State Treasurer's office is preparing for another active session where discussion will likely return to the state's budget and the many challenges that accompany it. I am working hard to secure a permanent solution for funding the treasurer's office by continuing to eliminate reliance on the state general fund and to provide efficient services to Kansans.

In an effort to return all monies to Kansans from the Unclaimed Property division, I will introduce a bill to the legislature that will allow the Kansas State Treasurer's office to pay the property owners or their heirs earnings, if applicable, on interest-bearing accounts.

Unclaimed property includes inactive savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties, utility deposits and safe deposit box contents. The Kansas State Treasurer's office receives property from businesses and state and local governments after a certain number of years as determined by law. This property is kept in the general fund for the benefit of all Kansans until the rightful owner or heirs claim it. There is over \$150 million of cash and property to return to Kansans, \$8 million of which was returned to citizens last year alone.

Currently, the state keeps the interest accrued from all property that is turned over to the treasurer and incorporates it into the state general fund. A certain amount of the property is interest-bearing at the time it is received; for in-



lynn  
jenkins

• state treasurer

stance, dormant savings accounts. I strongly believe it's your money and you should get the accumulated interest earned. Many states pay interest to claimants in similar circumstances.

I will oppose any effort to assign a tax on Unclaimed Property. Citizens of Kansas who have property with my office deserve to receive the full dollar value, and interest if applicable, when the property or cash is claimed.

Pursuant to laws passed at the end of the 2003 legislative session, we began assessing transaction fees to state agencies which use our agency's cash management services. This division received and disbursed nearly \$17 billion of the state's money last year. My office invested valuable dollars and staff time developing and implementing a tracking system to handle the billings to the agencies.

This process has been well received by the

majority of our customers and after nearly two years, it is working well. This change in billing has saved the state general fund nearly \$1.5 million. My office will work hard to request permanent legislation to sustain this funding structure.

As your State Treasurer, I am charged with looking after the money that you have entrusted to me. I cannot in good conscience stand by and allow your hard-earned dollars to be taken. An efficient government should be responsible and I will do my best to ensure that your voice and the voice of all Kansans is heard in Topeka.

I encourage you to contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about these and other issues of interest to you. It is important for your elected officials and lawmakers to hear from you. If you have Internet access you might go to [www.accesskansas.org](http://www.accesskansas.org). There you will find links to Kansas government, state officials and your state Representative and Senator. We all appreciate hearing from you!

It is my honor to serve as your State Treasurer. Please contact me if there is anything I can do for you.

## where to write

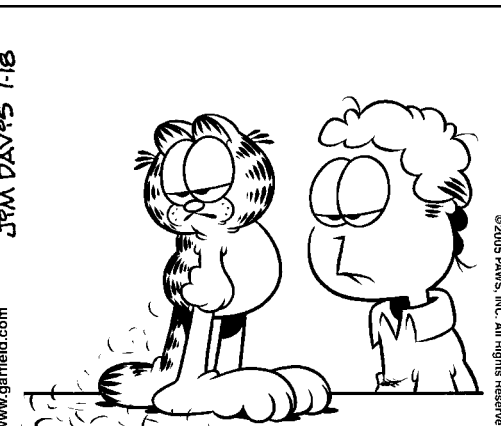
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**Nor'West Newspapers**

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