

## State will continue lottery because it needs the money

The Kansas Lottery is probably going to be renewed this year, because the state needs the money it produces rather badly. The life extension for the lottery won't please many progressives, however.

The fact is, the Lottery is addictive, and not just to all those poor saps who slap their bucks down each day at convenience stores from Kansas City to Kanorado.

The state of Kansas is addicted to its little pet form of legalized gambling. The \$60 million a year it raises for education, juvenile justice, prisons and economic development programs can't be replaced in the state's budget, not in a year when the governor is hinting that we need a tax increase to finance schools.

The state is like a player returning a \$5 winner for more tickets: It can't afford to let the Lotto balls stop spinning.

So while a lot of people think the lottery is nothing more than a candy-coated tax on those who can least afford it, it isn't likely that they will get together and kill to the lottery — even in a year when the program "sunsets" and has to be reauthorized by the legislature.

Not even the continuing scandal wherein an employee allegedly stole \$63,000 from the lottery will turn many votes against the system. Though the accused claimed that he was only trying to point out security problems in the state's computers, and said he would have returned the money, the case appears to be little more than a garden-variety embezzlement. It could have happened in any agency. Many thieves get away with more.

No, the lottery is here to stay. It's lucrative, and unlike an increase in the sales tax, a vote for the lottery won't get a legislator thrown out of the

Statehouse. At least, not this year.

Different versions of the bill would give the lottery five to 10 years of extended life. By that time, it'll be so deeply ingrained in the fabric of the state's finances that it may never be ditched.

That's too bad. Time was when we viewed gambling as a shady enterprise to be confined to places, like Nevada, where it would hurt the fewest victims possible. Now, it is a respectable money-raising enterprise for the state.

It's too bad we're so desperate. — *Steve Haynes*

## Legislature won't increase our taxes

Gov. Bill Graves hinted in his "State of the State" speech that there wasn't enough money around to pay for public education, not if the Legislature does what he wants.

Our prediction here is that the Legislature is not going to increase taxes this year or next. Education will have to live with what can be squeezed from the existing revenue stream, but it will have first rights.

Now that the highway program is secure for the next decade, education is priority 1 in Topeka.

But too many careers have foundered on the shoals of a tax increase for anyone interested in taking Graves' seat to push a tax increase. Even the governor, who challenged the Legislature to find the money for all-day kindergarten, didn't utter the "T" word.

And without him, the idea isn't going anywhere at all. — *Steve Haynes*

## State should not support the arts

The arts ladies are at it again. And, yes, I'm ready for the letters and phone calls.

But they can't have any more of my tax money.

A sappy article off the Harris news wire reports how two women drove 400 miles across snow-covered Kansas roads to plead for more state money for "the arts."

Members of something called Kansas Citizens for the Arts moaned that our state is 45th in budgeting for "the arts."

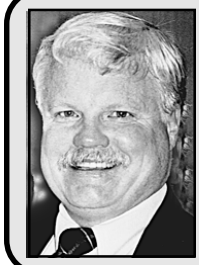
It's enough to make you want to cry. Now I like "the arts." I love theater and I can't think of a better way to spend time than looking at paintings. I'm not so hot on dance, but art is a pretty individual thing. I like concerts, but more rock than classical. I enjoy community theater and go whenever I can.

I don't mind paying for my ticket, but I don't like having someone take my money and tell me what I can see.

Which is what the arts ladies want to do. I'm sympathetic to their cause. I respect them. But I don't think they should get any more state money. Or federal money for that matter.

I love the programs our arts groups put on here, but I don't think the state ought to finance them. Raise the money at home, sell tickets, have a bake sale, whatever. But no tax money for "the arts."

Not with so many unmet major needs



### Along the Sappa

By *Steve Haynes*  
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in Topeka. Not with schools fighting over every scrap of income the state can raise.

Government is supposed to do for us what we can't do for ourselves. The power to tax is a sacred trust, not to be used lightly.

When it comes to taking tax money and spending it on art, I just don't think anyone has the right to make that kind of decision for others.

Some of us like Bach. Some of us like the Beatles. Some of us can't stand music. And we all have a right to feel the way we do.

Why should our taxes be taken from us and spent on someone else's art?

The arts ladies are going to howl, I know, but God bless 'em, they are in the wrong this time. Besides, the state doesn't have any money to spare.

There's not enough, without a tax increase, to pay for the all-day kindergarten and the special education programs the governor wants. There isn't enough for prisons, barely enough for roads and higher education. The state

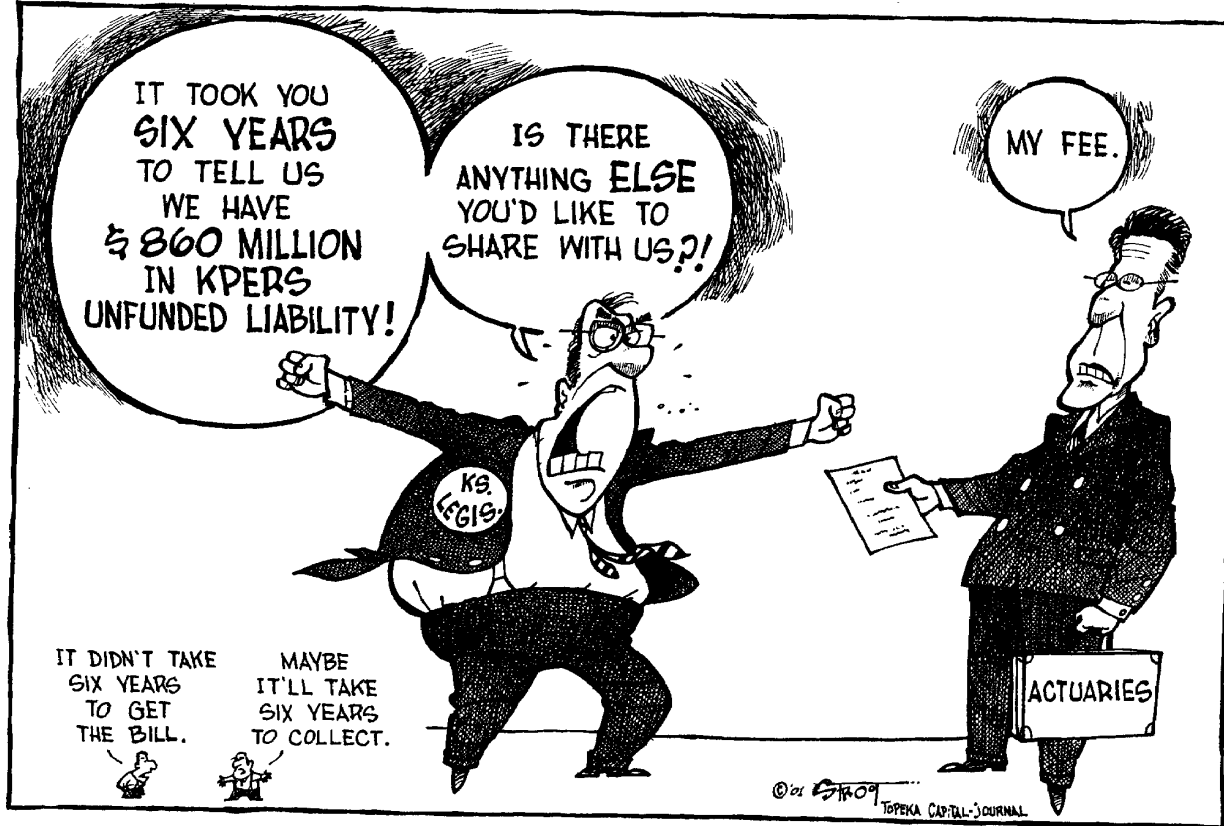
can't afford some of the programs it has, not with all the tax cuts in the last few years.

There is no extra money in Topeka, but if there were, I still wouldn't want the state to spend it on arts programs, no matter how good. It's just not the state's job.

Next time, ask me about the senior lunch, ladies. That'll really get me in trouble.

### From the Bible

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. St. Matthew 18:1-3.



## Fishing trip lands lots for supper

Steve's not exactly a mighty hunter or an intrepid fisherman, but he sure did put supper on the table a couple of weeks ago with a 60-pound fish.

We have been going to the Baja California peninsula of Mexico for about eight years now. Most winters we take our children and try to go during Christmas break. Since most of them are in college now and have nice long breaks, that helps.

The area we go, Cabo San Lucas, is known for its sport fishing.

Over the years the kids have tried about every other sport available there — wind surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling and boating. We have never tried sport fishing. It just seemed too expensive and too difficult to arrange.

This year there were six of us with us, our three kids and Felicia's steady, Nik.

I decided now was the time. Dividing the cost six ways — if we didn't do anything else — we could afford to go deep sea fishing.

I talked to the lady who makes entertainment arrangements, she made a phone call and we were set. We had a ship, crew and equipment for eight hours on Monday. Be at the dock at 6:30 a.m. Sack lunches and bait are extra.

We were on our way to the dock by 6 a.m. and arrived in time to meet our captain, Richardo, and first mate, Antonio. The lunches arrived and we were off into the dark.

It was rush hour in the harbor. Everyone wanted to get out onto the sea but there are a couple of stops along the way. First stop is the bait boat. It costs \$20 for 10 pieces of bait. Then you have to stop to get your fishing licenses, \$10 each. They are included in the price of the trip but the captain was swearing at all the ill-mannered people who kept getting in our way as we nosed up to the license boat.

I know he was swearing. Oldest daughter Felicia said it was quite colorful. Six years of Spanish and all she can do is swear fluently. She knows when she's being insulted.

Out on the Pacific, the first mate put up trolling lines and we ran around for a couple of hours looking for fish. We eventually rejoined the fleet off the entrance to the harbor.

The captain and mate took down the trolling lines and handed Steve and Nik each a gigantic rod. Over the next five hours we all got a chance to try our luck with the big equipment, although the captain was obviously holding his breath as 90-pound Lindsay took her turn.

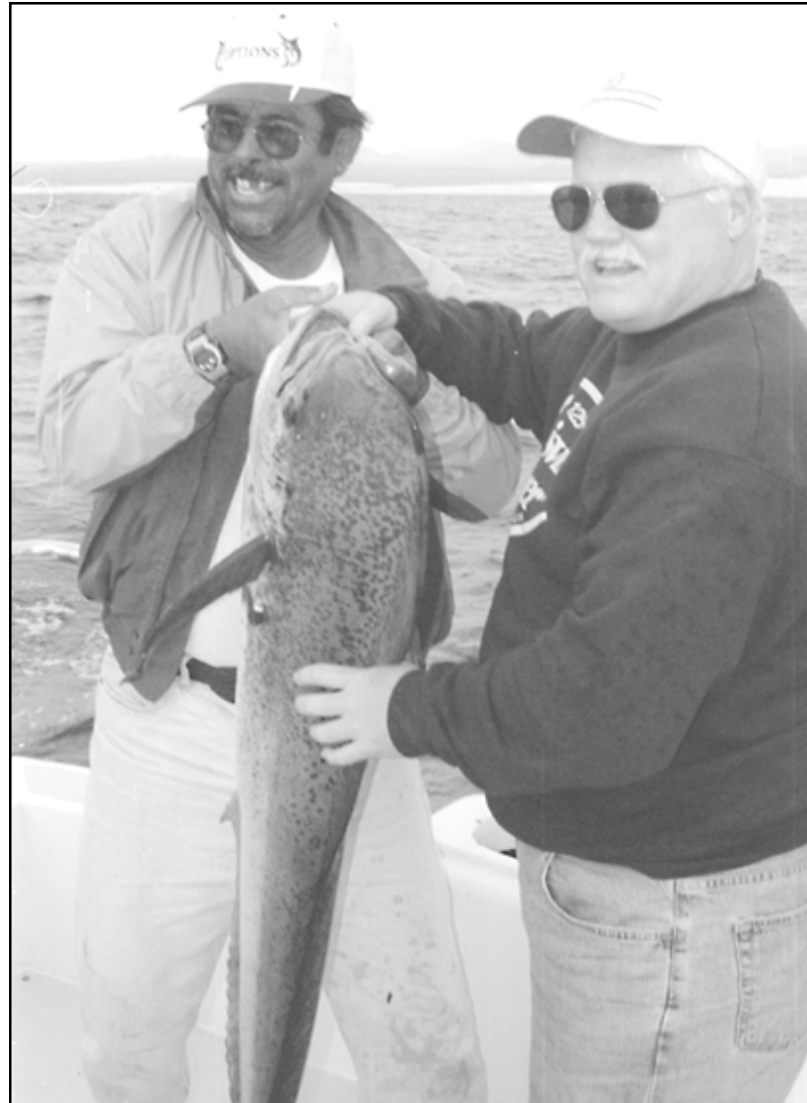
Steve got the first strike, a big marlin. We watched it jump out of the water just like in the movies, but inexperience and a big fish proved too much for Steve, who lost the trophy.

After an hour or so with no bites, the captain would move to another spot. All



### Open Season

By *Cynthia Haynes*  
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CAPTAIN RICARDO and Steve Haynes show off catch.

over we could see boats leapfrogging to different spots as their captains kept trying to find fish.

Nik got the next bite. It was big and but never showed itself. He later decided that it had probably been a tuna, which don't surface when they are hooked but put up strong fights. Again the fish won the day.

Finally, about an hour before we were to head back, the mate put out the trolling poles again. We hadn't gone far when one of them got a strike. Steve was given the pole and he fought to land a 60-pound dorado. The captain backed the boat up and the mate kept shouting the only English word he seemed to know: "Reel, reel, reel."

As the fish came near the boat, the mate gaffed it and bonked it on the head with a club to kill it. He then made motions to ask if we wanted gorgeous

green-and-yellow fish to be mounted or fileted.

Fileted it was. It was soon steaks in the cooler.

No sooner had the first dorado been fileted when the trolling line again found a target. This time Nik was able to land a 30-pound dorado. It joined its mate in the cooler and we headed for home with two yellow flags hanging from our mast. All the boats coming in seemed to have flags, yellow for dorado, red for tuna and blue for marlin.

The restaurant cooked up a huge plate for our supper and bought the rest from us. The next night the menu offered mahi-mahi, which is what we Americans call dorado, as the special, at \$27 a plate.

And for those of you who think this is a fishy tale, I got pictures.

### Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pic-

tures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return.

Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser proofs of photos which have run in The Herald are available for 50 cents each, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each for about two weeks after publication.

We can take passport photos if you provide a roll of color film. ASA 200, 12 exposure works fine. The charge is \$8.50 per person.

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