

## Limits on tax increases might just be good for state

We're starting to hear in Kansas about something called TABOR, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

It's a scheme for limiting the growth of government, first applied in Colorado. Some people would like to try it here.

A lot of people would hate to see it tried here, but most of them are dining at the state's table.

The idea is controversial. Opponents say it has hamstrung Colorado government. Others say that might not be such a bad idea.

We can tell you from experience, though, that property taxes are lower in Colorado, sometimes less than half what they are in Kansas.

Roads are better today than what they were when TABOR came into being.

City, county and school governments function as usual. Students are taught. Streets are cleaned. Sewers run. Roads are graded.

Kansas government has grown like a mushroom in the last 45 years. Kansas taxes have kept pace.

Maybe some limits are in order.

We've been saved from major tax increase by a conservative majority in the Legislature, but there's no saying it'll always be that way.

Opponents of tax limits say they haven't worked well in Colorado, especially when the economy went down. But all states were in a

squeeze then. So were taxpayers.

Kansas sponsors say they see the problems with the Colorado law, and know how to avoid them.

There are as many pressure groups pushing for bigger state government as there are state programs. No one really lobbies for the taxpayers in Topeka, but every state program has its lobby.

Some, like schools, have three or four.

All these groups hate tax limits. They represent public employees, public officials, social services clients and a host of others who suck tax money out of the state coffers.

That money comes from all of us.

We're not saying the state has no needs.

We are saying the state could use some limits.

And this idea is worth looking at.

In Colorado, by the way, the Legislature never would pass a bill instituting tax and budget limits.

There was a petition drive. The TABOR measure had to go to the voters as a constitutional amendment. They saw the logic, even if their representatives did not.

What would happen if Kansas voters got a chance to pass on something like this?

We'd like to see.

— Steve Haynes

## Saturday baking bug attacks

Every now and then I get the "baking bug," and this Saturday past was one of those days.

I had apples setting on the counter that were approaching the "use 'em or lose 'em" stage. Since we don't have chickens anymore, it really pains me to throw food away. When the hens were here, even if something "went bad," you didn't feel too guilty, because they could "recycle" everything back into something usable, like eggs.

We got home late Friday night, but I set out my supplies and mixed up the dry ingredients for pie. Half the battle is getting started.

Up before six on Saturday, I had a pie baking by 6:30 a.m. When Jim awoke, to the aroma of apple pie, it seemed to whet his appetite because he said, "Breakfast burritos sound good this morning."

I thought they sounded good, too. Except for one thing. There were no flour tortillas in the house. Not one.

Have no fear. The Internet is here. A quick search online produced a simple recipe. And after watching women in Mexico make tortillas, I determined I could handle it. Flour, baking powder, salt, oil and milk are the only ingredients. A little knead-



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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ing, a few minutes rest (the dough, not me), and I was ready to roll out tortillas.

Jim was enlisted to bake them on the griddle and we soon had an assembly line going. I will never win a prize for "the fastest tortilla roller-outer," but as far as taste was concerned, they could hold their own. I may never go back to store-bought tortillas.

The day was not even a third over and I had already completed two "Susie Homemaker" projects. I was on a roll.

Recently, I have been involved with a mentoring program called "Apples of Gold".

Mature women from our church have partnered with younger women to learn about and practice cooking and entertaining skills.

Guess which group I'm in. Anyway, each lesson addresses some basic cooking techniques and culminates with a meal. One of my favorite desserts was creme brulee. For some reason, Saturday seemed like the perfect time to try it. I had plenty of cream (the real heavy whipping kind) and eggs on hand.

Creme brulee is served in many finer restaurants. Usually, the crunchy topping is prepared tableside by a French waiter with an attitude, using a blow torch to melt the brown sugar. I achieved the same results with the oven broiler, even though it lacked some of the ambiance.

This is the most heavenly dessert, but it should come with a warning label: "Apply directly to thighs and massage well."

## Honor Roll

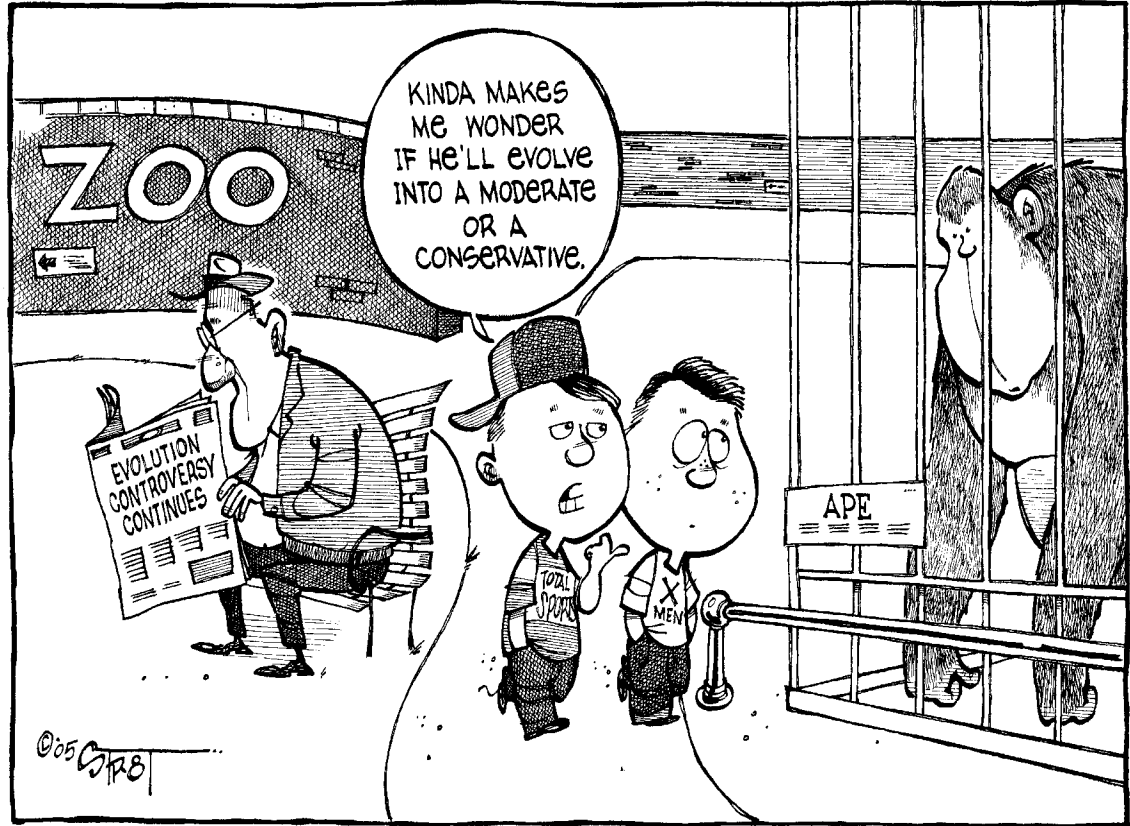
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## Washington offers fun stroll

A walk around Washington in the springtime should be a beautiful sight as the cherry blossoms and masses of flowers provide color everywhere.

However, I was there before the cherry trees bloomed, and only a few hardy flowers peeked out of the cold earth to get pelted with a mixture of rain and snow.

Still, we walked from our hotel to the train station a couple of miles away to look for a leather shop and check the schedule to Baltimore. I didn't find the leather shop, and Steve didn't quite make it to Baltimore, but we still had a good time.

In a small park about a block from our hotel, two churches had set up a soup kitchen and every homeless person in that half of the city was enjoying soup and sandwiches on the benches, sidewalk and steps of nearby buildings.

We walked on towards the White House. At the park across the street, a demonstration was underway. Here, surrounded by statues of Revolutionary War heroes — Washington, Jackson, and Gen. Fredrick Baron Von Steuben — 50 or so people chanted, beat on drums and held up signs calling for free elections in Togo.

Around the park are unobtrusive huts for guards and barriers for vehicles. Uniformed Secret Service guards stand by to make sure all is well. They smile, answer questions



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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and watch the parade of humanity.

In the street in front of the White House, two men played hockey on skates with a ball on Pennsylvania Avenue while tourists got their pictures taken against the fence with the grounds and grandeur in the background.

We walked on past the departments of everything and then some. Over on one corner is the Postal Service. It looks huge and ominous.

I'm not sure what they do there, but it's obviously the top of the bureaucratic food chain that handles millions of pieces of mail every year.

"Put a letter in there and you never see it again," I told Steve.

Just before we got back to the hotel, we got stopped by a hole in the ground.

The sign in front of the block-long dig proclaimed it the future home of the Newseum, a museum dedicated to newspapers.

I was sorry that the Newseum was still a set of drawings and a muddy

hole but I was amazed and delighted to find full-size front pages from around the world behind plastic all along the boardwalk that runs in front of the construction area. I counted 52 daily newspapers from everywhere in the country. Each paper had the news of the day. These were the same papers that people in Alaska, Tennessee and Arizona were reading that morning. While I didn't see either of the Denver papers, the Lawrence Journal World, Kansas City Star, Omaha World-Herald and New York Times were on display.

There were also a dozen or so English-language papers from around the world.

I don't know how big a deal this new museum will be, but I was impressed with their start.

All too soon, we were back at the hotel and getting in a cab for the airport.

Our visit to the capital was over before the cherry blossoms — or spring break crowds — had arrived.

## Kids need to use seat belts

The young tend to think they are immortal.

Old age, death, these things are light years away.

They think they can do as they will, and their youth, like a shield, will protect them.

Until the day, with cruel and sudden finality, reality comes crashing down.

It's happened in many areas in the last year. It shouldn't happen, but it does.

Speed, a little too fast on a gravel road.

Didn't see the stop sign. The curve. The dead end.

Until it was too late.

The car rolls. The occupants are thrown out.

The human body was not meant to hit the ground — or a telephone pole, a tree the curb, whatever — at 60 miles an hour.

When it happens, there is no time to think or react. No time to duck. No time to fasten that seatbelt.

There will be time later for the survivors to think.

A lifetime.



### Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
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These things can never be undone.

You see it time after time.

"No one in the car was wearing a seatbelt."

You never hear about the ones who were wearing their seatbelts.

You know why?

Because they lived.

No news there.

If there is anything teen-agers should know about cars and immortality and simple physics, it is this: Wear your seatbelt.

Make everyone in your car wear a seatbelt.

It won't hurt you. It could save your lives.

You're in a hurry, but wearing a seatbelt won't slow you down.

Put it on.

There's no evidence that a seatbelt will hurt you. Maybe it happened once. Somewhere. Maybe not.

The evidence is pretty clear that a seatbelt can save you.

Consider the odds of surviving a wreck where you're thrown from the car.

Consider the odds of surviving inside.

OK, sure, you ought to slow down a little. Watch other traffic. You may feel immortal, but don't put it to the test.

Buckle your belt. You may need it.

So might your friends.

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## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

In response to Steve Haynes' editorial concerning the need to teach the latest science in Kansas schools, we fully agree. But the problem Mr. Haynes has overlooked is that the evidence supporting the theory of evolution is what is becoming outdated.

Advances in the field of genetics have done much to weaken the philosophy centered in evolutionary theory. What was speculated about in 1859 is slowly being shown to be that, only speculation. We now know that genetic information is more easily lost than gained. This bodes well for microevolution, which is the science behind the breeding of animals, but it makes a strong case against macroevolution, upon which the theory of evolution rests.

The only way to add genetic information is through mutation. Yet, the only mutation that macroevolutionists offer as being beneficial is sickle-cell anemia. This is the only documented case where a mutation has occurred that has offered

a benefit. One who has sickle-cell anemia is much less likely to die from malaria. Yet, because sickle-cell anemia decreases the blood's efficiency in sending oxygen to the cells, 25 percent of those with this condition die prematurely.

The issue is not with those who look beyond themselves to God for answers; the issue is with those who are trapped in a philosophy that has tried for decades to establish itself without sufficient scientific evidence. The evidence which challenges the theory of evolution needs to be presented along with the evidence that is put forth in favor of it.

But what usually takes place is a blind adherence to textbooks written with a bias toward this philosophy.

We need students who are taught how to think for themselves honestly and objectively. When this happens, real science can not only be taught, but also questioned and pushed further toward what is fact instead of only speculation.

The Rev. Richard and Kimberly Langness  
Oberlin

## From the Bible

Hear me, O LORD; for thy loving-kindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

Psalm 69: 16

