THE OBERLIN HERALD — **Opinion Page**

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Tighter beef controls would benefit everyone

The secretary of agriculture, having won a case of mad cow disease in that country.

Department of Agriculture scientists assured the courts that resuming imports is safe. It's not like the Canadian herds were infested with mad cows, after all. They found one there, and shipped one here.

The U.S. now its own case. So far, no human in either country has been infected.

As the Canadian cases hurt exports from that country, the U.S. case has hurt chances for beef exports by stockmen here.

There will be winners and losers. Packing plants and feed lots need more import beef. Some ranchers are fighting imports, not because they're unsafe, but because keeping Canadian beef out may help keep prices up to inspect more cattle than federal rules rehere.

It's a free-trade world, though, and we all benefit from that in the long run. Let the imports come. It's the right thing to do.

As that happens, though, we'll urge the Agriculture Department to get with the program and tighten up controls designed to prevent ket beef? mad cow disease from spreading.

Border inspections are important, but there are disturbing reports that unsafe feeding practices and incomplete inspections threaten the beef supply chain in this country.

Beef parts, especially brain and nerve tissue, have been banned from cattle feed in this coun- to be sure that all beef is safe, theirs and ours. try, but some are still being fed to other animals. That ought to stop.

The only safe use for these parts is renderfederal appeal, is set to resume imports of ing at temperatures designed to kill any life Canadian beef stopped after discovery of a form. Some scientists argue that the beef form of the disease could spread to other species of livestock the same as it apparently does to humans.

> How is it safe, then, to feed any beef nerve tissue to any species?

> There also have been reports of contamination of beef feed with these banned tissues. We don't need to take that risk. This is a dangerous disease, and if it gets out of control, economic damage will be huge.

> Our understanding of the sublife-form called prions thought to cause this and other brain-wasting diseases is minimal. We simply don't know how to handle them.

> The government has banned private efforts quire. The theory is that universal testing is too expensive, and if one packer does it, everyone will have to.

> That could be true, but why interfere with a plan to reopen the lucrative Japanese market? Or provide a safe, healthy alternative to mar-

The end result would benefit everyone.

The Agriculture Department shouldn't play games with public health and safety, or with the safety of the beef industry. The tightest control will produce the most benefit.

As Canadian beef begins to flow, we need *— Steve Haynes.*

Saturday morning I woke up at 5 a.m. in San Jose, Costa Rica. When I went to bed it was 2 a.m.

Sunday morning and I was home.

take it so much for granted, and we gripe and moan when any little thing goes wrong. But in the space of four hours I flew from Central America to Dallas. It took two more hours in the air to get from Dallas to Denver and four in the car to get home to Oberlin.

That adds up to 10 hours. What happened to the rest?

Well, they told us to get to the airport three hours before our flight was scheduled. The guy ordering the cab from the hotel took them at their word and had us at check in before our eyes were properly opened. Then we got to sit around and eat bad American fast food at the airport.

The food is Costa Rica had been really good. The stuff they were selling us in the airport would have made my dog turn up her nose.

Luckily, American Airlines fed us a nice breakfast, which also turned out to be lunch since we weren't hungry during our two-hour layover in Dallas.

Layover is kind of a bad term for the long lines we went through to clear immigration and customs. Then we had to go back through security and take off our shoes and belts, open our cases and generally get poked and prodded again. We

had already done this once in Costa car, and we were ready to leave Den-Rica.

bags back to take through customs and then recheck them. This wasn't a long process, but by the time we were at our gate, it was almost time to board the plane for Denver.

As soon as we landed in Denver, we headed for the baggage claim.

This flight was going well. Although the three hours before leaving the airport in San Jose had been a bit much, everything else had gone smoothly.

We should have known.

A short, violent thunderstorm hit the airport just as we got to the baggage carousel.

When there is lightning within five miles of the airport, the ground crews quit working.

That means although planes can land, they can't pull up to their gates and no baggage gets unloaded. We waited for about an hour and

a half for the storm to move off and the bags to move out.

Friends gave us a lift back to our

Court nominee may sail on in

What has President Bush done? He appoints a conservative judge to the Supreme Court, and the Democrats can't think of anything bad to say about him.

Along the Sappa

Affable? Democrats, talking

Maybe they figured out their con-

nominees was not only hurting the

The truth is, no president or sena-

tor knows what is in the heart of a

prospective judge. Many have dis-

A federal judge, once in office,

appointed their would-be masters.

sits for life. He or she answers to no

man, save a higher court, or as a law-

yer I once knew was fond of saying,

'Federal judges talk only to God,

Once elevated to the Supreme

Court, there is no higher authority to

guide the justices. They are gods of

While Bill was taking chemo, he

was working to get the church and

could be moved. Lee helped engi-

neer the project. Neither Bill nor Lee

Wednesday was finally the day.

Probably 15 Prairie Land Electric

employees raised and dropped wire

to keep the church moving in 107-

degree heat. They did a great job.

When moving on the highway

slowed traffic, the mover pulled

over to let people go by. Never have

I seen so much love go into a \$400

lived to see the move, however.

and then only to give advice."

about a Republican judge?

country, but their image?

No matter.

the legal world.

ver at about 8:15 p.m. But that's You have to get your checked mountain time. On central time that was 9:15 p.m. and we had a fourhour trip ahead.

By the time we got home and unloaded it was near 2 in the morning.

There's nothing like a few thousand miles and a 20-hour day to make you feel like a nail being hammered into a hard board.

Still, it was good to be home and it's really amazing to think how far we went in less than a day.

People kid us about the Wizard of Oz when we tell them we're from Kansas, but a pair of those ruby slippers sure sounded nice at 2 a.m.

From the Bible Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he

that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished. Proverbs 17:5

Yes, it is hot enough for me.

Weather definitely HOT topic

disorder or the Devil himself. I think



Write

dual purpose. One, to see one of move the hose this morning and Dad's nephews, Gib and his wife found some of the prettiest roses in Liz, and two, to pick up a six-row bloom. Jim has brought me several is someone with a serious metabolic cultivator.

last week gave us a little glimpse of time and said Liz sure fed them well the palest pink ones. Haven't seen while they were there. He also said anything of my lavender roses this Gib's corn was 10 feet tall. Is that as summer. Guess they didn't make it high as an elephant's eye? Jim did bring me a present, some starts from Liz's flower garden. He is still going on about how beautiful her flowers were. We'll see if asked, "How does God know the Iowa flowers can survive in Kansas. __ob__

rose bushes over the years and today Jim thought they had a wonderful I have the deepest red blossoms and Costa Rica to home in one day **Open Season**

By Cynthia Haynes chaynes@nwkansas.com

Hope they never IT IGN'T THE MAJOR GURGERY REMOVE IT ... I WANTED, IF YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE HAVING BUT IT IS A CHEST PAING BEFORE ... BIGGER BAND-AID! GISLATU SCHOO KANSAS PUBLIC @ '05 GP8 Schools THE MANHATTAN MERCURY

Air travel is an amazing thing. We

Hell, and I don't want to go there.

Heat, and all subjects relating to

it, has been the topic of most conver-

sations in this area for the past week.

hot. None is quite adequate to de-

scribe the level of hotness we have

Most conversations seem to start

one of two ways. "Hot enough for ya?" or "Are ya managin' to stay

Thank you very much. The only

ones it wouldn't be hot enough for

experienced.

cool?

Horribly hot. Ghastly hot. Beastly

Staying cool is another matter. It involves a series of air conditioning units, supplemented by an array of oscillating fans placed strategically around the house to optimize the maximum amount of air movement. In other words, I want to always be where the wind is blowing on me.

Why is it people are often married to someone with the exact opposite comfort zone?

Jim and I can be in the same room and he is chilled and reaching for a blanket while I am completely comfortable. I would prefer our bedroom be like a wind tunnel and he thinks there's too much air.

We're at odds in the winter, too. I would like to open a window for some fresh air, but he's freezing.

Is that what it means by "opposites attract?"

-ob-Jim and his dad got to spend some quality time together last week. They took a road trip to Iowa with a expect readers to do likewise.

Speaking of flowers, I went out to it in the newspaper?"

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by E-mail to obherald@nwkansas.com.

letters. We sign our opinions and

-ob-

through the winter.

Did you hear about the letter a little girl wrote to her preacher? She good people from the bad people? Do you tell him or does he read about

Do they know something he

doesn't? The Dems were expecting another Robert Bork, the Reagan nominee they railed at and eventu-

ally blocked. What they got was something very different, a Washington insider with friends everywhere and few enemies.

In the current mood, he'll sail through the Senate.

It's not that the Dems won't try to find something. Ted Kennedy is looking. John Kerry is suspicious. But mostly, it's sweetness and light. Can you believe that?

"John Roberts has had an impressive legal career," says Minority Leader Harry Reid. "By all accounts, he is a very nice man.

Nice man! Sen. Joe Lieberman says Roberts is "a credible nominee."

Even ultraliberal Barbara Boxer of California says, "he's a very affable individual."

Church moving event for everyone

To the Editor:

I'm writing in regard to a moving event to many. The St. Mark's Lutheran Church building is now in Oberlin.

Ten years after the Last Indian Raid, the St. Mark's church building was raised. For 96 years it was an active congregation. In 1984, the church closed. For the next 20 years, Bill and Bee Nelson and Lee Eckhart mowed the grass, shingled the roof and dusted the pews. Then came the time when they were no longer able to care for this grand building. They looked at historical preservation, but time and money were short.

In the 1980s, when Sandy Russell was curator for the Oberlin museum, her dream was to move the church to the grounds. Twenty years later entered the new museum director, Sharleen Wurm. After a year of working with Bill, Lee and Bee, Sandy's dream started to become reality.

Letter to the Editor

building with so much history.

When this building is set in its fiits records released so the building nal resting place, Decatur County will have a \$40,000 church with lots of love. Pancake suppers, donations, raffles and matching grants and memorials have helped get the church this far.

It has a long way to go. But I hope Bill, Lee and Sandy are looking down from above and feel Sandy's dream is a reality.

> Ron Temple Norcatur



By Steve Haynes schaynes@nwkansas.com

Their conscience and the body of law are their only guides. Like all lawyers, they draw selectively on stant blockade of Bush judicial the law to make their points.

> And often, that point is not what the man who appointed them perceived.

Any president who thinks he knows how a judge will vote five years from now is kidding himself.

Like any hiring decision, appointing a judge is fraught with dangers.

Unlike hiring an attorney general or a secretary of state, you get just one chance to influence a justice, and they are on their own.

It's a scary proposition, but the system has worked well over the years. Here's luck to President Bush and to Judge Roberts.

Both will need it.

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