

Protesting anti-war mom back and in the running

So Cindy Sheehan is back. Sigh. It wasn't much of a break. It's been less than two months since she sold her Texas protest park and said goodbye.

She said she felt her antiwar efforts had been in vain and she was tired of smears from the right and the left.

She said we wouldn't have Cindy Sheehan to kick around any longer.

If only.

Dick Nixon was gone longer.

Now she's ready to run for Congress in San Francisco, taking on the ultra-leftist Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Yeah, that Nancy Pelosi.

"Democrats and Americans feel betrayed by the Democratic leadership," she said in a pre-announcement press conference from her Crawford, Texas, park. "We hired them to bring an end to the war. I'm not too far from San Francisco, so it wouldn't be too big of a move for me. I would give her a run for her money."

Um, sure.

The antiwar mother — her son, Casey, was killed in Iraq in 2004 and she began protesting outside President Bush' Crawford ranch the next year — said she'd announce her campaign on Tuesday.

Sunday, she began her final week at the Crawford park, five acres she bought after

camping along the road to the ranch. She's sold the place to Bree Walker, a multi-enhanced California talk show host who vowed to keep it open to protesters.

It's the American way, talk radio and protest. No logic required.

And the far fringe in both parties biting the hands that feed them.

That's Ms. Pelosi's problem now, of course. Her office had no comment.

Neither (smirk) did the White House.

Fratricide on the left can't be bad for them, forgetting the times the religious right has bucked the president.

We suspect Ms. Pelosi is secure in her post, but in San Francisco, home of Haight-Asbury and the Summer of Love, you never know.

Roadside Cindy might give her "a run for her money."

This week, apparently, she's leading a caravan to Washington. Wearing an "Arrest Cheney First" T-shirt, she said the Democrats had caved in on the war. They should impeach the President for lying to the nation, she says. Cheney second, we presume.

Anyway, it should be quite a show on cable news. We need some entertainment.

Many would like to ask Casey what he thinks of his mother's mad dash to the left, but of course, he's not around.

Most of the soldiers we know think they could predict his answer. — *Steve Haynes*

You get that helpless feeling

Jim started feeling bad Friday afternoon. By that night, he was one sick puppy.

When someone is sick, it makes you feel so helpless because there is absolutely nothing you can do — except hold their hand and say, "I'm sorry you feel bad."

By Saturday morning, he was feeling much better. That, of course, meant he tried to do too much and tried to eat.

While I was outside watering flowers, he made himself a hamburger. That was his first mistake. His stomach wasn't quite ready for that, and he got sick all over again.

After spending a miserable Saturday afternoon and evening, he had learned his lesson. On Sunday, he vowed not to eat anything — and he stuck to his guns.

However, by late Sunday night, he was hungry with a capital "H." My suggestion of oatmeal was not greeted with any enthusiasm.

So I said, "I know something that will satisfy your hunger and taste good, too." Whatever it was, he was all for it.

At last, a chance to prove my theory that there was nothing wrong with a SlimFast shake that a scoop of ice cream wouldn't help. I loaded the blender with a cup of milk, a heaping scoop of strawberry-flavored SlimFast powder and two or three scoops of vanilla ice cream.

I flipped the switch and "Voila,"



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
cplotts@nwkansas.com

I soon had a vitamin-packed, filling drink.

He attacked it with the gusto of a hungry hound dog.

It wasn't long, however, before he said, "Are you sure you didn't use the calves' milk replacement to make this?"

I assured him I had not and he finished it. But, it was more a sense of duty than of delight.

Bottom line — he is feeling much better.

-ob-

We had a beautiful rain last night. Enough that I don't feel compelled to water trees and flowers this morning. If it hits the projected high of 99 degrees again today, we are going to be in a steam bath.

I know I say this every year, but it's true, "It's not the heat; it's the humidity."

-ob-

We're starting to wean our two calves. They are only getting a bottle once a day now and we are ready to move them from their little pen to a

larger enclosure. They both eat their "calf crumbles" and any weeds we pull and toss in to them.

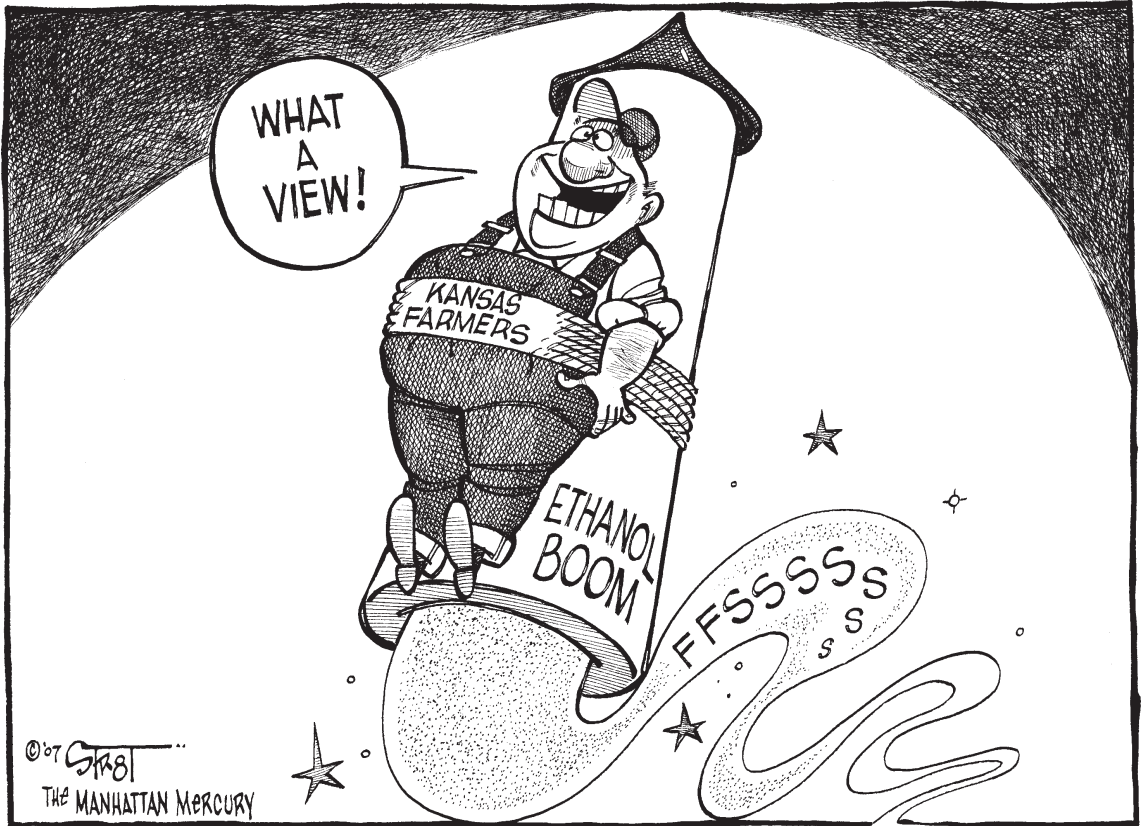
Jim bought a halter for the heifer, since she is the bigger of the two. He figures the little bull calf will follow her. Perhaps when we move them from one pen to another, it won't be such a rodeo.

I'm not counting on it, though. I prefer moving them using the bottle method: Don't feed them that day until you're ready to move them, then show them the bottle and they'll follow you anywhere. Just, make sure you don't run out of milk before you get them to the new pen.

From the Bible

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:24



What has happened to Oberlin?

To the Editor:

What has happened to Oberlin?

For the past four years, we've made annual trips to Oberlin to visit our old stomping grounds. Each year, it seems certain areas of Oberlin have been slipping further into a stigma of weed-infested, unkempt, clutter-filled yards.

All cities have some areas that are not well maintained. Over the years, these areas in Oberlin seem to have become more prevalent.

Why has the city not intervened?

We've read in *The Oberlin Herald* on several occasions that the City Council has approved funds for the purchase of new trucks for various city employees. Are these new vehicles a necessity? If so, why didn't Oberlin purchase them locally? Logic tells us that keeping the money used to fund city projects within the local area can only be a win-win situation for Oberlin. Why does the city opt to spend the money

Letters to the Editor

elsewhere?

As for the streets of Oberlin, they are desperately in need of repair — not to mention the plethora of weeds that grow in them. They are full of potholes, busted curbs and debris. Do the city workers still work, or are they too busy riding around in their new trucks?

Again we ask... why has the city not intervened?

We grew up in Oberlin. That's been over 50 years ago. Back then, Oak Street between Wilson and Marks had a big drainage problem. It flooded after every rain, and mud filled the street and clogged the drains. Today it's even worse. The middle of the street is significantly higher than the gutter. The street sweeper can't even clean the gutters

because of the added slope. Why hasn't the city corrected this street maintenance problem? It's obvious adding asphalt on top of asphalt is not the right solution.

Oberlin was a wonderful place to grow up. It had people that cared about it and its appearance. Oberlin was a "City with Pride." What has happened to Oberlin's pride?

Perhaps the people who now run the city need to rethink their priority lists. Somewhere over the years they've stopped caring.

Has everybody "checked out" and entered the "It Don't Matter" zone?

Linda Marintzer,
Westminster, Colo.
Debbie Scheufler,
Tempe, Ariz.

Reader recalls watching storm

To the Editor:

Thank you for the story about the June 3, 1950, Selden hailstorm in the June 20 issue of *The Oberlin Herald*, which just arrived at my house today. By coincidence, I was relating the story a few days ago to some eastern Oregon farmers to illustrate the vicissitudes of the weather on the High Plains.

My perspective was from the seat of a John Deere tractor working summer fallow about eight to nine miles northeast of Selden.

It was a hot day and I noticed the dark cloud hovering over Selden,

expecting it to come my way. But it did not.

Eventually, it got quite cold and I had to retreat to the house about four miles away, as I had no coat. At the house, my mom seemed to know a lot about what was happening in Selden.

They had all that rain and hail, but

I did not even get wet — just cold. It was a most interesting and memorable afternoon.

A few days later, we had occasion to go to the hardware store in Selden; it was warmer, but big piles of ice were still on the ground.

James B. Sawyer
Pendleton, Ore.

Thanks for holding off

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all of the retail stores for waiting until after the Fourth of July before putting all

Christmas items on sale.

Arthur Shelton
Oberlin

Bill would address aging law

By SARA A. DeFORGE
Government Relations Manager
National Newspaper Association

The Fourth of July marked the birthdays both of the U.S.A. and of the Freedom of Information Act.

Both are testaments to democracy, both represent the people and both should be celebrated for their support of a free and open society.

The OPEN Government Act (Senate Bill 849), introduced by Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and John Cornyn, R-Texas, would make much-needed reforms to this law by addressing the problems of this aging legislation. Delays in responding to requests, severe backlogs and lost records are just some of the issues this legislation addresses.

With numerous co-sponsors, both Republican and Democrat, this bill shows how sound legislation that seeks to keep the doors of government open is blind to partisan politics. A similar House bill passed by more than 300 votes. Clearly, Congress realizes the importance of legislation designed to give the public greater access to government.

The importance of this bill to individuals, small businesses and news organizations is immeasurable. Faster, easier access to information that contributes to the public's knowledge could be had without big money or large operations.

An award-winning series on mine safety in *The Charleston Gazette*, a small newspaper in a small state, was made possible through a request under the Freedom of Information Act. While the national media was focusing on the Sago mine disaster, Ken Ward Jr. wrote in poignant detail about safety violations that show a pattern of neglect resulting in the nationwide death of miners. Although Ward was successful in his request under the act, he said that the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration has become very combative about requests and still has pending requests that have gone unanswered for months.

Foot-dragging by government

agencies can defeat even the most patient requester, particularly small newspapers and businesses that cannot afford the time it takes to wait out the slow-moving gears of government response. Congress has made two tries to improve response rates since it first passed the act in 1966, but this time, the sponsors are now taking a different tack. Modeled after successful bills at the state level, an ombudsman provision in this bill would open lines of communication between the requester and the federal government.

The ombudsman would level the playing field by giving small businesses, weekly newspapers and private citizens the means to obtain information quickly through a non-binding written opinion. Those with

the means and time to sue for the release of information — or seeking a groundbreaking legal precedent — would retain the right to go to federal court.

Those who win their case could be reimbursed for the expenses incurred when they overcome an agency's stonewalling. But for those for whom courts aren't an option, the expedited release of records through the ombudsmen encourages greater access and transparency to a government that is supposed to be run by the people, for the people.

The U.S. Senate should celebrate this important law by bringing this proposal to a vote on the floor. What could be a better way to celebrate our nation's heritage?

Honor Roll

Welcome and thanks to these recent subscribers to *The Oberlin Herald*:

John William Montgomery, Tucson, Ariz.; Donald Wolfe, St. Charles, Mo.; Marjorie Tacha, Huron, S.D.; Nola Thompson, Fredricksburg, Texas; Arlen Gross, Baton Rouge, La.; Grace Van Sickel, Osceola, Mo.; Patricia Demaree, Idaho Falls, Idaho; Beckie Almqvist, Zumbrota, Minn.; Henry Peterson, Canyonville, Ore.; Annette Lambert, Celina, Texas; Dexter Arnold, Tucson, Ariz.; Lynn Temple, Aransas Pass, Texas; Georgan Ishii, Chino, Calif.; M.R. White, Long Beach, Calif.

Colorado: Clarence Ames, Pueblo West; Chris Ehler, Wheat Ridge; Larry Guinn, Deer Trail; Eleanor Simpson, Estes Park; Rex Olson, Louisville; Rod Steinmetz, Two Buttes; Francis Kathka, Humansville, Mo.; Jeanette Tice, Aurora; Lori Brewer, Limon; Marie Bernard, Englewood; Bonnie Sexton, Loveland.

Kansas: Nancy Larson, Hiawatha; Randy Fisher, Benton; Ron Claussen, Sterling; Renee Ochsner,

Bill Wessel, Darrel Bruggeman, Bill Bainter, Selden; Elby Adamson, Clay Center; Jean Ann Confer, St. Francis; Chris Gillespie, Marion; Dan Hess, Salina; Steven Hess, Lynne Flanders, Overland Park; Roxie Erickson, Manhattan; Greg Ritter, Dresden; Larry Johnson, Jay Kump, Alfred Cressler, Jennings; Rosa Brown, Lula Hix, Doris Mizell, Norton; John Jones, Mullinville; Clyde Vernon, Frontenac; R.W. Johnson, Rexford; Tillie Pitner, Atwood; Dan Shuler, Jetmore; Dustin and Kendra Pelton, Burdett; Clay Anderson, Herndon.

Nebraska: Don Macfee, Lebanon; Joan Hall Davison, Beatrice; Dean Berndt, Dale Blake, Danbury; Rosa Boehm, Murlin Krizek, McCook;

Oberlin: Dorothy Jackson, Dr. Mark Olson, Fred Counter, William Ladehoff, Doris Fringer, Faye Miller, Lee Martin, Gary Erickson, Jerry Lohoefer, Fern Jording, Doug Brown, Leone Purton, Roberta Urban, Phil Wurm, Edla Olson, Eva Morton, Mildred Lippelmann, Ernest Fowler, James Gamblin, and Keith and Roma Grafel.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800

E-mail: oberlinherald@nwkansas.com

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

Steve Haynes editor
Kimberly Davis managing editor
Mary Lou Olson society editor
Judy Jordan proofreader
Carolyn Kelley-Plotts columnist
Cynthia Haynes business manager
David Bergling advertising manager
Pat Cozad wantads/circulation
Karla Jones advertising production
Joan Betts historian
Jim Merriott sports reporter

Subscriptions: One year, \$33 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in US dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(Also open most Saturdays when someone is in.)

