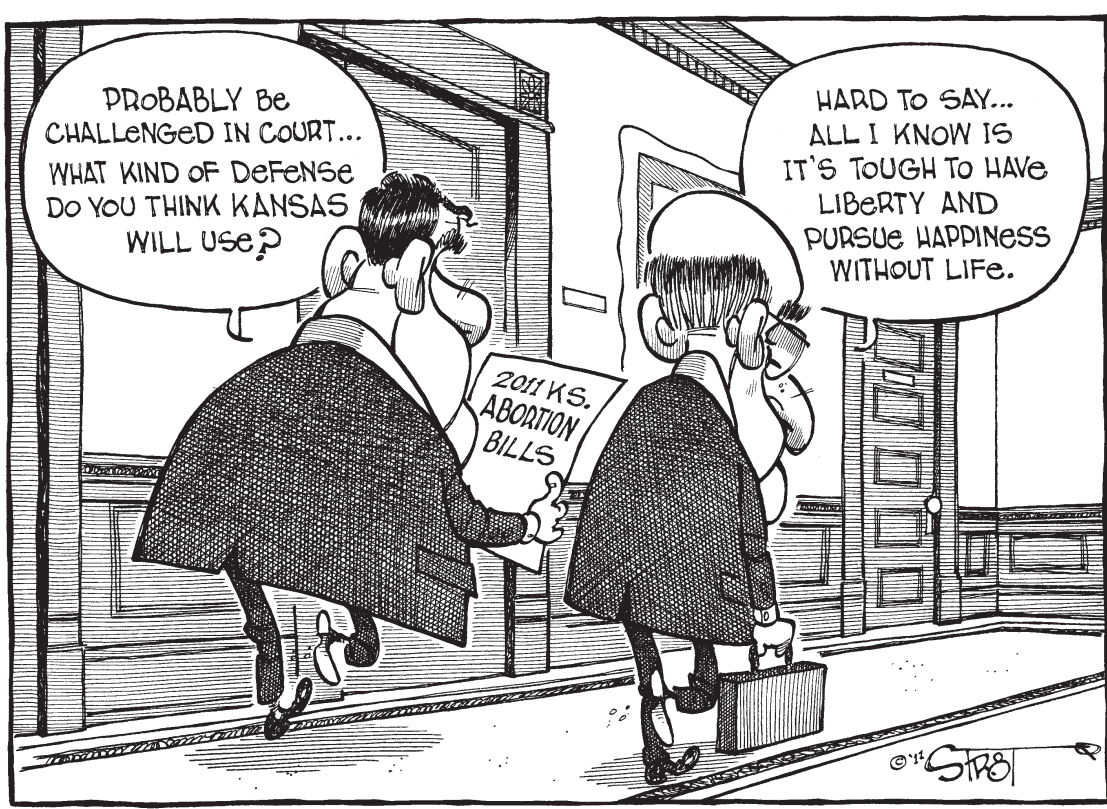


Republicans did right in avoiding shutdown

Whew! The government didn't shut down. Some say that's too bad. Especially the "tea party" bunch. But those people didn't include the military wives who were freezing food in case their husbands didn't get paid later this month because of the feared shutdown. Nor the great mass of Americans whose stock holdings and other investment might have plunged. The millions of federal workers who would have missed paychecks, only to be paid later for time they didn't work. The workers in "critical" jobs who'd have had to work despite the lack of a check. No, the Republican party did the right thing when it settled for \$38.5 billion in cuts from this year's budget, rather than demanding the full \$60 billion it had asked for. For one thing, the GOP lost ground in the Clinton era when it forced a shutdown. The Republicans had the upper hand, but people didn't like to see their government embarrassed. There would have been no gain for the GOP from a shutdown this year, either, no matter what the hard liners think. There'd have been plenty of blame to go around, but the Republicans would have been painted as the bad guys. If the deal stands, and Congress goes ahead and passes a budget for the current year, budget cutters will face a far bigger task. Republicans are projecting a need to cut \$6 trillion over the next decade, about \$600 billion a year, from the budget. To do that will require skill and compromise. The vast military budget will have to be part of

the discussion, and Republicans have a hard time cutting that. Otherwise, the cuts would have to come mostly from "discretionary" programs, and there's not enough money there to cut \$600 billion a year. Worse yet, the deficit is running more than twice that amount, about \$1.3 trillion per year. To balance the budget is going to take two things: some really deep cuts, and a return to prosperity that will refill the federal treasury. Prosperity produced big surpluses in the Clinton era, for which the Democrats took credit. Bad times are producing big deficits today, deficits made much worse by unrestrained "stimulus" spending. Now, it's time to pay the bill for all this borrowing. And with the national debt at \$13.2 trillion today, no one is even talking about paying it off, or even putting an end to borrowing. Right now, it's enough to talk about slowing the increase. Shut down the government? It won't save any money or reduce the debt. Most of us might not miss it much, but there are those who would be hurt through no fault of their own. The best course lies in learning to work together in Washington to do what has to be done, without partisan wrangling or showmanship. That's a lot to ask, of course, but it's what we need. Then, a united nation could focus on the future deficits and a plan to pay down the debt. It has to happen someday, and with work and cooperation, we just might be able to pull off a reform before financial collapse overtakes us. — Steve Haynes



Procrastination doubles task



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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I spent all night working on a special project. So why isn't it done? Cause I did it in my sleep. I really hate it when that happens. Couldn't my subconscious go skiing, sky diving, motor crossing or some other activity that there is almost no possibility that I will ever voluntarily do? If I have to work in my sleep, why can't I do something like design a new kitchen, upgrade my wardrobe or wash the car? Why do a project that I should have started last week but am still procrastinating on? This project is a special section the newspaper is doing with several others in the area. It's a big job and requires contacting and getting information from a lot of people, then putting it all together. We do the same thing almost every year, and every year at the last

minute I find that there are several pieces of my puzzle missing. That means getting on the phone and making hurried and harried calls. I suspect that if I got started earlier, my subconscious might not bug me so — or maybe not. I remember my mother complaining that when she was redecorating our living room, she spent the entire night wallpapering. Maybe that's just the way it is with big projects. When you are in the middle, you can't seem to escape even in your dreams.

In the meantime, I'm going to need to get this project done, because I'm real tired of fighting it and two cats, who seemed to want to sleep in my space, all night. I guess, in some ways, I'm lucky. I could have spent the night working in the garden I haven't gotten planted yet. Then in the morning, I would have woken up not just tired and cranky, but sore from all that planting and hoeing.

Life is busy, but not exciting

So far today, I have managed to: answer about five e-mails, fix a cup of coffee, post an entry on Facebook, take some chops out of the freezer for lunch, make three phone calls and order something on-line. I am such a procrastinator. Can't think of anything to "say," so I do everything else but. Think, that is. "They" say the secret to writing is to just write. So, here goes. I've come to realize there is a difference between having an exciting life and having a busy life. Even though I think I waste an inordinate amount of time, I am always busy. Our trips to Mexico could be called exciting, though nothing out of the ordinary has ever happened to us. It's for sure the four days of driving to and from are not exciting. Except for that time we about got sideswiped in Dallas. That was pretty exciting. By exciting, I guess I mean lavish vacations (scratch the lavish) to exotic locales, and attending Hollywood premieres or inaugural balls. We wouldn't know what to do on a lavish vacation. except think how many houses in Mexico we could build with the money spent on having "fun." Indeed, we have more real fun working our buns off building a house than we ever could on some sunny beach. Besides, I never have



Out Back By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts quality-pro@webtv.net

to worry about what to wear. My vacation wardrobe consists of T-shirts, a good pair of leather gloves, sturdy shoes, socks and slacks. Perhaps someday we will take a real vacation. Until then, we'll spend our travel money and time on mission trips and going to see our kids and grandkids. —ob— A splash of color caught my eye as I was at the kitchen sink making coffee this morning. Yes, I have tulips blooming. I transplanted them a few years ago to the protected south side of our rental house next door, and there they have thrived. I hope they can survive another move, because I want to make a new flower bed around the bay window on the south side of our house, and I want some early blooming flowers in it. Right now, my tulips, daffodils, one lone grape hyacinth and several naked ladies (don't know their real name) are sprouting up in the weirdest places in the lawn. I'm marking

Chicago machine takes hold



Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes
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It occurs to me that just as most people missed what Barack Obama meant by "change" when he was running for president, most of us missed what was happening after he took office. For the "change" he was talking about did not mean liberal Democrat control of the White House, the House and the Senate, as most Republicans assumed. The country had seen and survived that before. No, in this case, "change" meant turning the White House over to the Chicago Democratic party machine. Hard to believe? Perhaps, but true nonetheless. For while the president talked about being a "community organizer," the former Illinois senator in fact was tight with the party power structure. He's about as old-fashioned a Democrat as you can find. One of his chief backers, of course, was Richard M. Daley, 54th mayor of Chicago and nominal head of the current-day Democratic machine. Richard M. is the eldest son of Richard J. Daley, 48th mayor of Chicago. Yes, that Mayor Daley, the one who delivered Chicago and Illinois to John F. Kennedy in 1960, snatching (or stealing, depending on who you talked to) the election from Richard Nixon. The same Mayor Daley who issued shoot-to-kill orders during the 1968 Chicago riots and whose police made sport of smashing hippies' skulls outside the Democratic National Convention that year. Richard J. Daley reigned in Chicago for 21 years, a record surpassed only by his son, who had been mayor for 22 years and holds the all-time

record. Richard J. Daley was known as the last of the old-line big city bosses, maintaining tight control over the party machinery and the city government from his office. The son of a sheet-metal worker, he lived in the predominantly Irish Bridgeport neighborhood nearly all his life. His son John P. Daley still lives there, in fact, still attends the wakes and other neighborhood gatherings his dad was famous for. John P. seems poised to inherit the family mantle as boss of bosses as older brother Richard M. slips into retirement. John Daley is a member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and chair of its finance committee. He holds the family post representing the 11th Ward on the Cook County Democratic Central Committee, passed down by his brother and father. His wife is the daughter of reputed Chicago mob figure, cementing family ties to yet another Democratic power bloc. Replacing Richard M. as mayor is Rahm Emmanuel, a former Illinois congressman who has been Obama's chief of staff. And replacing Emmanuel as White House chief of staff was William M. Daley, a former Chicago banker and brother of the outgoing mayor and the current county commissioner. And son

of that Mayor Daley. You might think things have changed in Chicago since the 1950s, and it's true the city will have a Jewish mayor in place of an Irish Catholic machine politician. The machine seems to be pretty healthy, however. Scandal still abounds in local government and city contracts. One recent episode involved trucking contractors with ties to the city and to John Daley's lucrative private insurance business. But if you have any doubt who's in charge at the White House — or what the president meant by "change" — this should set you straight. It's new in Washington, so that's change, but for the Chicago machine, it's business as usual.

From the Bible

And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, "Verily I say until you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me." And they began to be sorrowful and to say unto him one by one, "Is it I?" and another said, "Is it I?" And he answered and said unto them, it one of the 12, that dippeth with me in the dish."
Mark 14, 18-20

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Beware of phone, e-mail scams

To the Editor: Lately, I have received quite a few calls from senior citizens who have fallen victim to e-mail or telephone scams. These schemes are getting increasingly more complex, creative — and devastating when successful. Some use personal information gleaned from the Internet to manipulate seniors. They prey off your compassion and may even claim to be a family member or friend in need of urgent assistance. Almost always they ask for some kind of payment or identifying information that they can then use to access your personal accounts. Remember, if it seems odd or raises red flags, please think carefully before responding. If you have any qualms about sending information or money to a stranger, please call the FBI. Our FBI office in Kansas City

Letter to the Editor

stands ready to help. If you have any questions or are afraid you've been scammed, call (816) 512-8200. You can also visit the FBI's website at www.fbi.gov and click on the "scams and safety" link to find resources and tips on staying safe. This site also has a list of common scams that should be your first stop before you think about cooperating with the requests of a stranger on the internet or the other end of the phone.
Pat Roberts, U.S. Senator
Washington

Write

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 send by e-mail to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com. We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.