

## Government to blame for graduates' debt load

College students have fallen into the sweet trap of ever-increasing student loans.

Many finish an undergraduate degree with \$60,000 or more of debt. Many of those will never be able to repay their loans, and for those who do, the experience will be trying.

Worse yet, Congress keeps encouraging colleges to hike tuition year after year, far beyond the needs of inflation. Every time colleges hike their price, Congress puts more money into student loans.

The result? Why, colleges just hike tuition prices again. There is no incentive for them to hold rates down, not as long as the feds keep dumping money into student loans.

And so college salaries keep going up along with the tuition, states continue to cut their support for higher education and more and more students graduate with degrees that won't allow them to repay their loans.

You could call it a scam. It is sort of a giant Ponzi scheme where no one ever really comes out whole.

Who pays for all this? You do, of course, with your tax dollars.

Sure, some students will repay their loans. The government will get its money out of others through seizing tax refunds and like tactics. But someone has to pay the difference.

That would be you, Mr. Taxpayer. Parents and students who pay their own way, rather than using loans, pay a big price, too. Tuition is far higher today than it would be if the government had held the line somewhere on student loans.

Colleges and universities eventually will pay the price when the scheme collapses and they realize no one can afford to go to college

anymore.

It's also true that some students graduate with degrees that will allow them a lucrative income. Medical students, for instance, can expect a six-figure income out of school, but they face eight years of classroom work and maybe three of internship and residency, often more.

They may graduate with a quarter million dollars in debt, some even more. Even on what a doctor can make, it will take a long time to repay those loans.

Somewhere, we need to reintroduce a dose of common sense into Washington. It's not likely to happen in this, an election year, however.

President Obama has students all lathered up over a pending hike in student-loan interest. They're protesting a lifetime cost increase of \$1,000, a pittance compared to the cost of tuition inflation over the last 10 years.

And the president says those mean ol' Republicans want the poor students to go without.

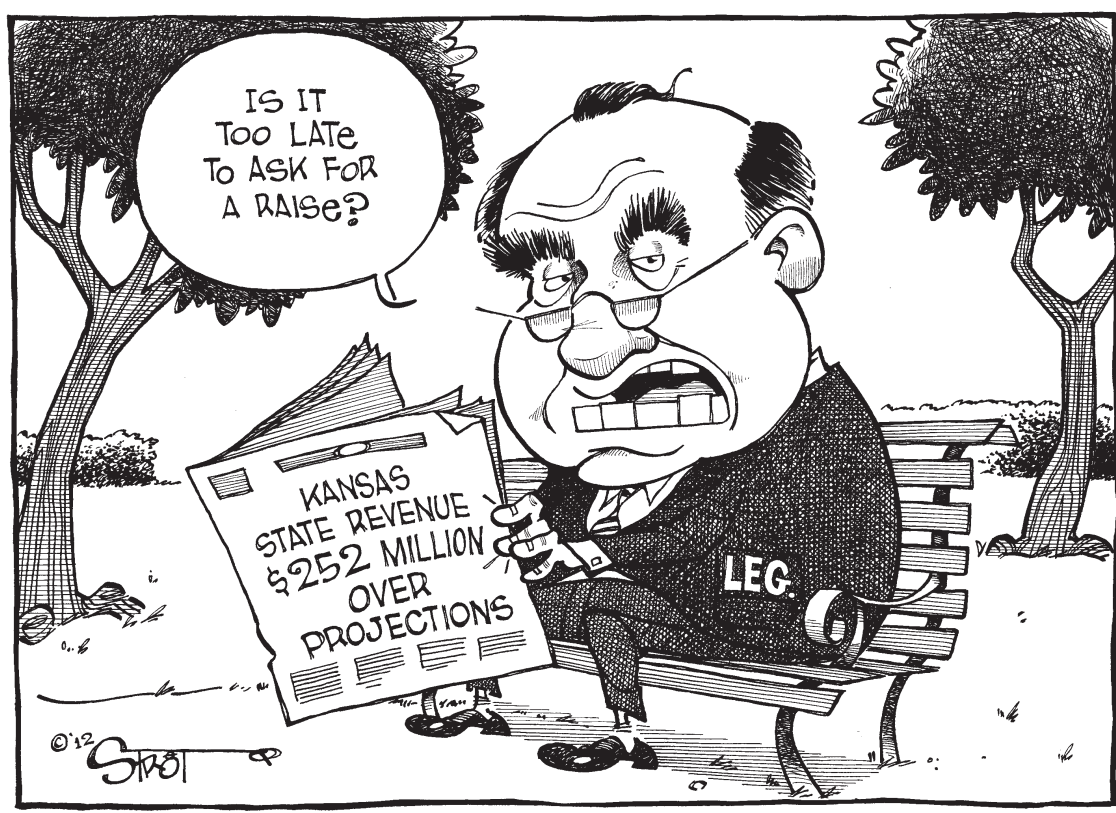
The truth is, as usual, both parties have been at fault in this scam. The president is just playing his cards where and when he can. Many college kids will vote for him.

And as long as that kind of thing is possible, busting the budget for a few votes, we'll have a spending problem in Washington.

It's not that we shouldn't have student loans — there is a need and a place for the program — but that we shouldn't allow a good program which helps some people drive up the cost of an education for them and everyone else.

Or allow federal money to be used to buy votes.

— Steve Haynes



## Green garlic smells up house

Who. My hands smell like garlic.

I spent an hour on Sunday thinning the garlic patch in hopes that the remaining plants will produce big, fat, multi-cloved bulbs.

Sunday wasn't the best choice for this task. It had rained, so the garlic came out easier than it would otherwise. But I should have gotten this job done a lot earlier in the season. While the end of April is usually a good time to thin the plants, this year everything is early and the irises, which share a bed with the garlic, are all ready to bloom. It's harder to move around in the bed when you are constantly worried about breaking off a flower stalk.

Still I got a bunch of green garlic; it looks just like green onions. However, I have no idea what to do with it. I did see one recipe the other day that called for green garlic. Of course, I have no idea where I saw that recipe or even what it was for.

Still, I expect to see a bunch of recipes for green garlic in the future. By then, of course, I won't have any.

What I should have are radishes, lettuce and spinach.

I don't normally thin my lettuce, but this year, I decided to do so, and we had baby lettuce for supper on Sunday. That was the second bit of produce I've had out of the garden. I pulled a radish about the size of my little fingernail. I washed it, sliced off the root, added salt and ate it. Delicious.

The garden is coming along well. The peas are starting to come up along the back fence and the turnips are starting to show their tops between the rows of lettuce. Behind the lettuce, the parsnips are just starting to come up.



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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The beans are barely breaking the surface of the garden. After thinning the garlic, I put in some nasturtiums along the edge of the beans. The nasturtiums are supposed to protect the beans from bugs. Last time I tried planting them, however, the bugs ate the flowers first and then went for the beans.

But, hope is ever present in the breast of the gardener.

This year, the tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers will have to be put in a little late. Actually, they'll get put in about the same time they al-

ways are, it's just that spring is three weeks ahead of me.

I see the plants at the grocery store and the hardware, and I so want to get them and put them in. However, I'm getting a new window put in and the workmen are going to have to stand in the tomato bed. It just seems to be a good idea to let the workmen get done and then put in the produce so they don't have to work around the plants like I did in the garlic-iris bed.

And a lot safer for the plants.

### 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 pictures 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, first come, first served.

## Meatloaf can be a team sport

How many cooks does it take to make a meatloaf?

If you had been in my checkout lane at the grocery store, you'd answer: as many as there are women around.

As I was leaving, a young woman checking out behind me asked the cashier what all she needed to make meatloaf. A woman behind the inquiring cook offered her suggestions. I, of course, had to give my input, as did the cashier.

We all told her she needed either, bread crumbs, cracker crumbs, oatmeal or even crushed corn flakes. We agreed that no meatloaf was complete without at least one egg and some ketchup. I said she needed onions, the cashier said bell peppers, the other shopper said to add corn.

Corn? Whoever heard of corn in meatloaf?

As the young woman went in search of her missing ingredients, I said to the cashier, "I would sure like to know how this recipe turns out — after all the 'help' we've given her."

-ob-

Jim has had the "crud" this week. It started with him just feeling good-for-nuthin'. And it got worse from there. He felt so bad he suggested going to the doctor. For him, that's bad. A high-powered allergy shot and a higher-powered oral antibiotic soon had him back on his feet. It's pretty much been reduced to coughing and congestion, and he's



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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anxious to get back to work.

-ob-

Our little town has its own news sheet. An all-volunteer staff publishes it once a week. It even has its own "yesteryear" column, and I was browsing through news stories from the 1950s when something caught my eye. It was my name.

It seems little Carolyn Sue Kelley, 3, a backseat passenger of the car her mother was driving, fell out the door and suffered a minor brain concussion. Remember, this was before the day of child locks, car seats or even seat belts. Guess it caused no permanent damage.

-ob-

This past week, I've been like an expectant father pacing the waiting-room floor.

Once, sometimes twice a day, I check my new flower beds for any sign of life. I planted dozens of bulbs, and so far — nothing. Something's got to pop soon. I'll let you know when the "babies" arrive.

-ob-

Speaking of babies — this will be

the summer of new chicks.

I Googled the inquiry, "How many years does a hen lay eggs?" The answer: about three.

Well, there you have it. The "old girls" will be retired this summer and their replacements are settled into the do-it-yourself incubator.

Its capacity is 30 eggs, and I'm counting on the law of averages being on my side and allowing us to get at least 15 pullets out of the hatch. That would leave 15 roosters for the stew pot.

### From the Bible

Then Phillip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus, and as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

— Acts 8:35-36

## Revenue forecast looks good

I had the opportunity to serve on my first Omnibus session the third week of April. The Appropriations Committee returned to Topeka to review the final budget and make adjustments based on economic forecasts, current revenues and the total amount awarded the state from the tobacco lawsuit settlement.

The state's forecast and revenues are much better. Two years ago, we were \$550 million in debt and now we should have a \$600 million ending balance. It is hard to believe, but even with the aircraft industry layoffs, there have been 22,000 new jobs created in Kansas in the past two years.

The tobacco settlement was estimated low, and it came in almost \$20 million more than was allocated for the Children's Initiative Fund. The governor is hesitant to put all of the increased revenue back into the fund. I personally will lobby for him to do so. I feel that all the programs the tobacco settlement fund supports are saving the state money in the long run.

What was made very clear in Appropriations was that it was the



### Letter from Topeka

By State Rep. Ward Cassidy  
ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov

Supreme Court who gave the furloughs to district judges and clerks — not the Legislature. Chief Justice Lawton Nuss announced that he is delaying, but not cancelling, the next two furlough days. We will be done with the budget by then and, hopefully, he will then cancel the rest of the furlough days.

I attempted to reinstate the market pay package for our state employees, especially those who work in the prison system, and we were voted down 11-8. The announcement of several jail breaks in Kansas has got the governor's attention. He has said that we need to give greater priority to our prison system.

I have visited several prisons in the last two years and realize there are many prisoners that we don't

want out on our streets. The key to any well-run business is strong leadership and good employees.

The state just can't keep telling our employees they are not important. The Legislature reconvened last Wednesday. The same items I wrote about in the first column in January are still to be decided: the budget, reform of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, school finance, Medicaid reform and redistricting. In addition, about 100 bills have yet to come out of conference committees.

Add all this up and include an election year for Senate and House, and there's a lot that's not done. I believe we should be worried not about elections but about working for all of our constituents.

## Artist says thanks for show

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly thank all those involved with the annual Gateway ArtFest. What a wonderful opportunity for our artists to display and even sell their art!

Anna Shaw and everyone else involved are to be commended for the work they put into each year's show. I know how much work goes into putting together a show of this

### Letters to the Editor

size. Along with organizing the art, they put together a wonderful Friday evening opening for artists and patrons.

The support for our young artists is also greatly appreciated. The work they do may very well help

lead a young artist to a lifetime of involvement with the visual arts.

Thank you again for the work you do!

Deb Goodenberger,  
McCook

## Reader agrees with school column

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your article ("Open Season" column, Page 4A, Wednesday, April 18, Oberlin Herald) about small schools teaching big skills. I

agree with you 100 percent.

I think both boys and girls should have to take these life skills. I live in rural southeast Kansas. One of my sons taught in your area sev-

eral years ago and we still take the Oberlin paper.

Sharon Reaves,  
rural Chanute

# THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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

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Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

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Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcat, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$38 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in U.S. dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

