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Posted on Tue, Apr. 20, 2010 10:15 PM

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Letters | Wednesday, April 21

Big rewards

It seems the idea of increasing monetary rewards for information on crimes could become a sticky situation. (4/12, A4, "Do bigger rewards work?; Crime Stoppers officials are divided on increasing funds, but local statistics show money talks.") If people think the reward could continue to increase, they may withhold information longer. The whole idea is to urge you to come forward with what you know, not to set you up for life.

Cheryl Leverette

Kansas City

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Bad example

So Scott Schaper uses an obscenity and the hand gesture that goes with it, to a policeman who was giving him a ticket for failing to yield. (4/16, A1, "Bird in hand is worth 4 grand; Man who flashed finger at police gets \$4,000. But Olathe thinks others won't flip over result.") He then gets a disorderly conduct ticket. That ticket was rescinded in the name of freedom of speech.

He may have walked away with \$4,000, but he also walked away from being a good example to his kids who were in the car while all this was going on.

No, the policeman giving the ticket didn't make the kids cry — the father's irresponsibility did. He failed to yield.

One more example of not owning your stuff and shifting the blame. Maybe some parenting classes are in order. My hat's off to the Olathe police.

Patti Dickinson

Fairway

Census misses home

We have not received a census form. We also are wondering how many other people did not receive theirs.

What is really odd is that we own two residences, and neither address received a form. I understand that the cost of doing the census (borne by we, the taxpayers) comes to about \$48 a person (3/7, A1, "Count 'waste' part of rising census cost; Added to the expense are forms that bureau and postal officials agree will simply be thrown away"). I guess ours will cost more than that.

Shirley Haynie

Lee's Summit

Where's the beef?



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In 2010, President Obama will advocate drilling in the Atlantic but not be for opening up the vast reserves in Alaska — all in an attempt to woo conservatives while not alienating the environmentalists on the left. Flying around the country in his big blue plane, he will paint himself as a centrist who cares about middle-class values.

This time it's about "getting those prices down at the pump for average, hardworking families." He will pal around with T. Boone Pickens the same way that he hung out with Warren Buffet in 2008. But after the election, who knows what he will do?

Mr. President, the country is wiser now. President John F. Kennedy once said that "America needs leadership, not salesmanship." This fall, the mid-term voter is going to be looking for the substance of the former, and avoiding the oil-sickness of the latter.

Todd Thurston

Overland Park

Prayers for Obama

Every morning I pray for our president and the huge burden he has on him. It is inspirational to see the beautiful and mature way he handles himself in the face of all of the nastiness and insults that he endures.

He is a true role model. The job and responsibilities that he took on are daunting, to say the least. He inherited a devastated economy, two ugly wars and much hostility around the world.

These are not easy things to fix, and they will affect the United States for many years. However, good and positive results are happening if you sit back and take a look. All of these thoughts are in my prayers, but I am especially grateful that Barack Obama is at the helm.

Barbara Alley

Leawood

Soda tax

The Kansas Legislature is considering a bill that would tax hardworking families on soda and other sugar sweetened beverages. This is not the time to raise grocery prices when many families are already struggling to make ends meet. Kansas families can't afford another new tax.

This discriminatory tax does nothing to help fight obesity, as some would claim. Not one penny of the tax goes to making our children healthier. All revenue goes into the state general fund. But this tax does jeopardize some of the thousands of jobs supported by the beverage industry throughout Kansas. It just doesn't make sense for legislators to put more jobs at risk in a recession and at a time of high unemployment.

It's time for the Kansas Legislature to look at its spending. If lawmakers are asking families to tighten their budgets, then our legislators need to follow suit.

The Legislature must find a solution to this budget shortfall without raising taxes, especially a tax aimed at one specific product. There is a better way to balance the budget than taxing our grocery cart for additional revenue.

Vic Allred

Parkville

Guaranteed U.S. rights

Jim Svetlecic asserts that "there are no inherent, God-ordained rights" and that "rights are decided by societies." (4/12, Letters) That certainly seems to be the philosophy of the current administration and Congress, and Mr. Svetlecic has bought in to it.

He must have lined through that part of the Declaration of Independence that states, "all men ... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights."

Or perhaps he feels that the Obama administration and the Congress have effectively nullified that provision. He may turn out to be correct unless we act soon to reverse the direction of the federal government.

Jim O'Connell

Shawnee

Liberal 'dark age'

Marsha Ledgin writes, "I see a "Dark Age Ahead," and it scares me to death." (4/11, Letters) Instead of fearing the far right, she should fear the far left that is determined to destroy this country to further its agenda of class warfare,

first-round pick for Chiefs

Chiefs will open season on a Monday night at home against Chargers

Hey, aggressive drivers: Law enforcement agencies will be watching

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Big 12 commissioner suggests Big Ten growth won't come so soon

hatemongering and fear. They have brought our economy and country to the brink of collapse with TARP, Obamacare, cap and tax and value- added tax.

They have taken control of the auto, banking and health care industries because big government knows better than the private sector what is best for all of us.

We must shift our government's focus to creating jobs instead of waging class warfare. We must stop the wasteful use of our tax dollars on things such as tunnels for salamanders, and instead use them for things that really matter — education, infrastructure, police and firefighters.

Do you really think that raising taxes as a ruse to soaking the rich will actually benefit the country as a whole, if in doing so it completely destroys the country?

Pam Zubeck

Leawood

Catholic Church

Janelle Lazzo must have missed the memo that said the trend is over to be a Catholic who intentionally tries to divide people by rewriting the teachings of the Catholic Church with heroic and righteous-sounding statements, pretending to be an amazing Catholic who loves and knows the church more than the "intolerable" leadership. (4/10, Letters)

Many Catholics, including those in leadership, rightly refuse to condone the horrors of the past but refuse to massage history in an effort to self-serve, confuse or divide. Too many "Catholics" talk God but teach hate.

Most Catholic families are spending their time and energy working with the many loving and dedicated bishops and priests who are determined to strengthen and unite the Catholic Church by bringing it to a place of accountability where the message of the risen Christ is proclaimed and lived to its fullest in every home and congregation throughout the world.

Teresa Hamilton

Bucyrus, Kan.

Janelle Lazzo, I am sorry to hear that you're feeling helpless concerning the pope and the Catholic Church scandal. Perhaps you ought to learn more about the truth of this great pope's courageous stand.

The secular press has done a great disservice to its readership by not delving into the facts of the case. The faithful Catholic press could give you the real scoop. Take time to obtain the National Catholic Register or another real Catholic paper.

Beware of the dissident Catholic press. Its agenda is not to provide the full truth to the faithful such as you.

Jerry Fournier

Kansas City

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[Submit](#)Comments:  6 Showing: Newest first**hanseman wrote on 4/21/2010 2:16:23 PM:**

TO JoeFreedom: I never heard you complain when Bush and his war criminals run this country to the ground morally and economically by waging illegal wars. I can't figure it out how you can blame Obama for this. Pull your head up out of the sand and start noticing what is happening in this country. The republican is obstructing everything. Why? Because they have destroyed this country and have no clues or ideas for any improvements. But I bet Sara P is your ultimate presidential candidate. Says it all. No further comments.

[Recommend](#) (0) [Report abuse](#)**JoeFreedom wrote on 4/21/2010 12:29:07 PM:**

Once again, RBeigher uses the tired excuse from the talking points of the left and mainstream media. How easy and how Kool-Aid of you to blame Bush for everything. The problem is not the "crises" Obama inherited. It's the ones he's creating. He's lived in such a socialist policy shell all his life he doesn't have a clue he's on a different planet than most of us. If he were less narcissistic, he might be able to figure this out. I also take issue with the GOP for their strides toward bigger government and higher spending. These are NOT their core values. More people, thankfully, are realizing this fact -- witness the grass-roots launch of the Tea Party and the success it's having. Have you read up on Obama's record so far? The National Debt will increase by almost 40% in just his first two years--now 13 trillion and counting! The interest payment alone is \$350 billion dollars a year and rising. The budget deficit under Obama's administration is FOUR times what it was under the Bush administration. As a result, we must borrow more money from China, Saudi Arabia and Russia. it's almost as if Obama wants to bankrupt us on purpose. He's run out of OUR money and yet he's spending it like tomorrow! For all his failed policies and intentions, I give him a resounding "F" and rank him among the worst presidents in U.S. history.

[Recommend](#) (0) [Report abuse](#)**RBeigher wrote on 4/21/2010 9:09:24 AM:**

Jim O'Connell believes that there are God given rights because the Declaration of Independence stated that "All men ...are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights." In fact, the United States Constitution gives us our rights. It took a constitutional amendment to give women the right to vote. It took another one to give us the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press and the right to assemble and to petition. The 24th Amendment allowed people to vote without a poll tax. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery. These amendments give us our freedoms, not God. Before civilizations were formed, you had rights depending on your ability to survive in a savage world. In many parts of the world, people still are subject to religious laws based upon various types of religion. If God had ordained rights to man, no man could alter those rights and God would protect people from outrageous acts. "Ain't happenen."

[Recommend](#) (1) [Report abuse](#)**RBeigher wrote on 4/21/2010 8:46:59 AM:**

Pam Zubeck fears the far left. She seems to have forgotten who bailed out the banks. George W. Bush. She seems to have forgotten who set this country on track to an economic depression, George W. Bush. She should read Barbara Alley's letter. Obama inherited all the mess that Bush created. He has done a great job of overcoming the problems left behind by the complete failure of a President, George W. Bush.

[Recommend](#) (3) [Report abuse](#)**RBeigher wrote on 4/21/2010 8:41:25 AM:**

Todd Thurston wants to drill in Alaska. He apparently thinks that would bring fuel prices down. Oil is running out. Drilling in Alaska would give this country a small increase in supplies of oil. Meanwhile, the world is running out of oil. Today, we import oil recovered from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, Canada is our biggest supplier of oil. Recovering oil from tar sands is expensive but when oil prices spiked during the Bush administration, supplies from the tar sands became economically competitive. What this country needs is to change to renewable energy sources and to more conservation. That is what will provide fuel for our economy when oil supplies become even scarcer than they are now.

[Recommend](#) (1) [Report abuse](#)**brianmehner wrote on 4/21/2010 6:27:43 AM:**

Barbara, I suspect the travelers on the Titanic were equally confident in their own captain...

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