

## Let's not forget President Eisenhower

A fax on Tuesday of this week rakes Gov. Kathleen Sebelius over the coals for not signing a proclamation declaring February 6, 2007 "Ronald Reagan Day." Kansas, so the fax says, is one of only nine states that did not issue such a proclamation. The Ronald Reagan Legacy Project labeled the governor's gesture an insult to Kansans and all Americans across the nation.

We've got news for the organizers of this "Ronald Reagan Day" project: Hold on, there! If we Kansans are going to honor a president, it wouldn't be the 40th President of the United States — Ronald Reagan. Instead, it would be the 34th President of the United States and fellow Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

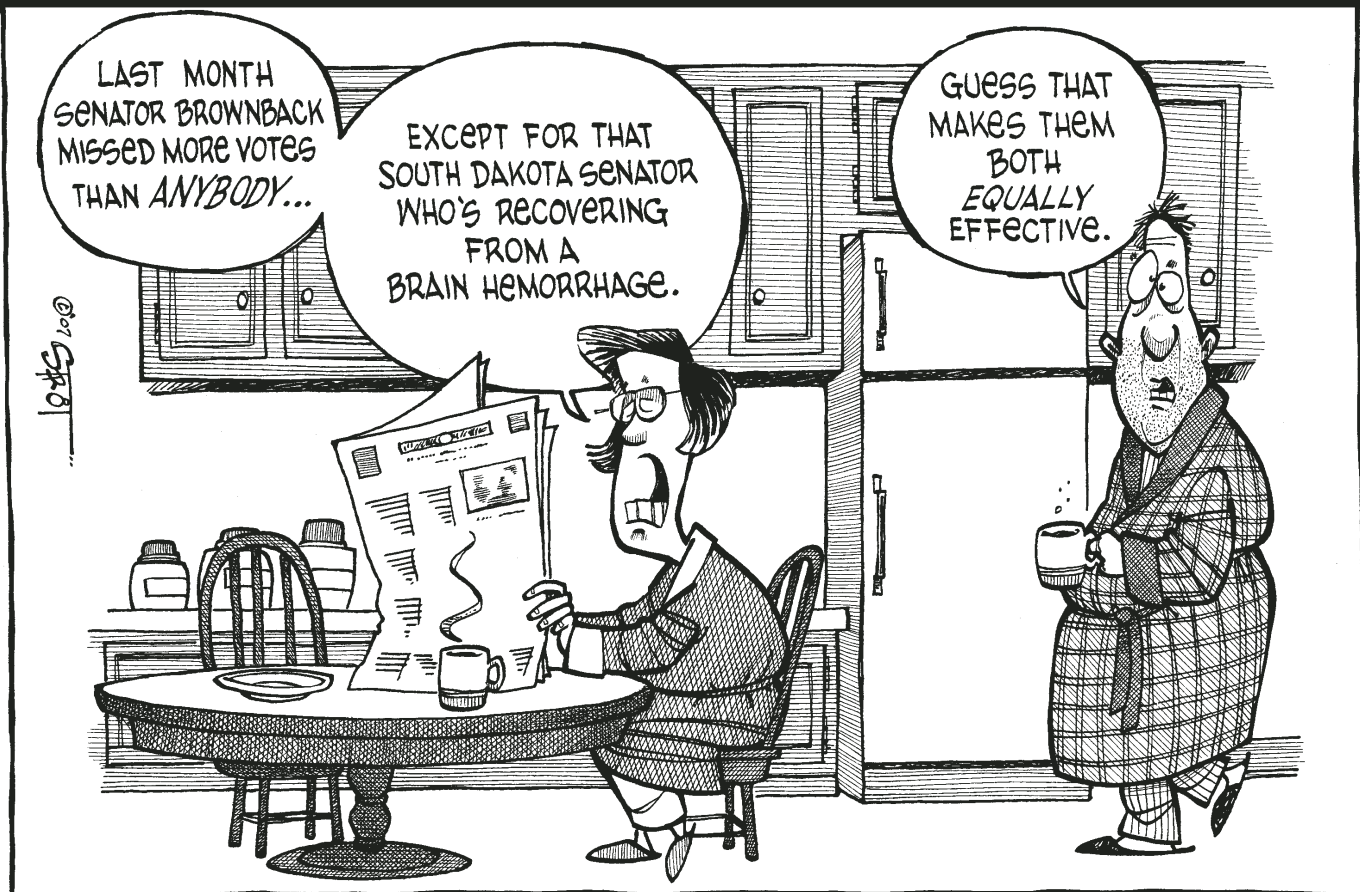
He served this country very well in the military and in the White House. Lest we forget, General Eisenhower was commander of Allied forces in Europe from 1943-45 and 1951-52. He served two terms as president from 1953-1961.

Gov. Sebelius' decision not to proclaim Feb. 6 Ronald Reagan Day had nothing to do with partisan politics, as the fax quotes Grover Norquist as saying. He is chairman of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project.

Goodness, we have a President's Day already on the calendar (Feb. 19). We assume this honors all presidents from Washington to Bush. We most certainly would be slighting some very influential presidents if we limited this project just to Mr. Reagan.

Stick to your guns, governor. If there is a need to single out a president to honor, rest assured in Kansas that would be — without question — President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

—Tom Dreiling



## Candidates might outnumber voters

The name game continues to grow. And grow. And grow. We hear the names often of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Sen. John McCain, Sen. Sam Brownback and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (Republicans), and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Joe Biden (Democrats) when conversation turns to the November 2008 presidential election.

But that just scratches the surface.

Others in the mix include (Republicans) former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and California Congressman Duncan Hunter; (Democrats) Sen. Christopher Dodd, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich.

Take a deep breath. Also mentioned are former New York Gov. George Pataki, Sen. Chuck Hagel and Newt Gingrich, former House Speaker (all Republicans), and former Gen. Wesley Clark and Rev. Al Sharpton (Democrats).

Still with me? Does Alan Keyes ring a bell? Or Chuck Baldwin or Jim Clymer? Toss in the name of Jerome Corsi. They are Constitution Party possibilities.

And former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney (you remember her? She caused a flap when she slapped a guard at the Capitol?), Rebecca Rotzler and Kat Swift. They could become candidates of the Green Party.

I'm not quite finished. Libertarian Party possibilities would include Jim Burns and Steve Kubby.

The name of Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, a Repub-

lican/Independent, is frequently mentioned.

And the name of Kansas Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has also floated around.

Researchers aren't quite sure, but some say this is the first time since 1952 that the playing field is even. President Bush cannot seek another term (the president is limited to two consecutive terms) and Vice President Dick Cheney has no interest in the presidency.

Other researchers disagree with the 1952 claim, and point to 1928 as the last time a sitting president or vice-president wasn't in the running.

There are other parties out there that are silent at this time, but rest assured names will be coming from them also. Those are the Workers World Party, Socialist Workers Party, Prohibition Party, Socialist Equality Party and the Socialist Party USA.

I don't know if there are any more parties hiding behind the bushes or not. But you never know.

They are talking about the millions and millions of dollars that will be needed for the 2008 presidential campaign. Glancing at the above, I think it'll take more than that.

-td-

Cupcakes! Yummy! There seems to be a growing controversy in some schools in the country about allowing cupcakes to be

served by parents of children celebrating birthdays. Cupcakes, thanks to the many delicious ingredients that grace the top, are being looked upon as causing kids to get fat. One mother of a celebrating child brought something less tasty — a Jell-O mix with a crunchy top — and it wasn't met with much acclaim. Cupcakes? A culprit? Come on! Pick on something else.

-td

It was snowing heavily and blowing to the point that visibility was almost zero when the little blonde got off work. She made her way to her car and wondered how she was going to make it home. She sat in her car while it warmed up and thought about her situation. She finally remembered her daddy's advice that if she got caught in a blizzard she should wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it. That way she would not get stuck in a snow drift. This made her feel much better, and sure enough in a little while a snow plow went by and she started to follow it.

As she followed the snow plow she was feeling very smug as they continued and she was not having any problem with the blizzard conditions. After an hour had gone by, the snow plow driver stopped the machine, got out and came back to her car and motioned for her to roll down her window. The snow plow driver wanted to know if she was all right as she had been following him for an awfully long time. She said that she was fine and told him of her daddy's advice to follow a snow plow when caught in a blizzard.

The driver replied that it was OK with him and she could continue if she wanted, but he was done now with the Wal-Mart parking lot and was going over to Sears next!

-td-

Have a good weekend. And if need be, follow the snow plow to the church of your choice.

## Those joyful notes of life

Life presents many experiences. In January, I traveled to Lawrence to hear grandson, Tyler, play his euphonium with the John Phillip Sousa Honor Band. What a delight to hear those middle school students play together after only a few hours practice. They, of course, had received the music ahead of time, yet that is quite an accomplishment to play as a unit with that amount of practice.

The first weekend in February found me in Kansas City where my daughter, Fonda, was the Worship Leader and featured singer at a Women's Conference. Fonda also had been working for some time on a CD which she released at the conference. The CD consists of eight songs which she wrote and two older songs for which she wrote the arrangements. What joy to not only hear her, but that the other 475 women in attendance were so responsive to her music. "Song In My Heart" is the name of her CD and they are available at *The Norton Telegram* office or by contacting me at (785) 669-2145.

**Other Notes of Life**  
• My granddaughter, Jessica Peil Claybrook, Michael and Claudia's oldest

### Memories Sonya Montgomery



daughter, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. I know many other people have gone through health problems with their children or grandchildren. It is very hard to see them hurt; however, if we never hurt, we would not know the joy of loving someone.

A friend lost her son last week to a heart attack at the age of 42. We don't know and may never know why things like this happen to someone so young. However, we believe there is a God who wants us to love and care for each other and he knows our hurts and gives comfort.

People say that physical problems and death are a part of life. That's alright to hear until it's the one YOU love, then we have to remind ourselves often that the statement is true and that our days on this earth are short no matter how long we live.

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## A case of international policy run amok

I believe in holding people accountable, but I hope we, all allied forces, realize when we have war there will be accidents. Wartime presents unique experiences and the loss of a loved one must be indescribable. It certainly isn't made any easier when it involves friendly fire, but there is a difference between negligence and a mistake.

I listened to the tape of the young pilot asking about the vehicles below and receiving confirmation it was too far north for it to be any of the allied force. Only after the target had been hit did the realization come that it was a British convoy. A British soldier had been killed by an American attack. Friendly fire once again.

The victim's wife wants the truth, something she is entitled to know. Unfortunately our government has been slow in handing over the tape. This only adds doubt to the young widow's grief.

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



From all indications this was a case where those clearing the attack truly didn't believe this could be our own forces and those who launched the blast relied on the information.

They will spend the rest of their lives reliving that moment, even though our own government has cleared them of wrongdoing. The British government, on the other hand, is still investigating the incident.

## Thumbs Up to ...

✓ Terry Laughlin, of CrossRoads Church, for showing the inspirational movie, "Facing the Giants." (brought in)

✓ Busy Beavers 4-H Club, for the two huge baskets of goodies. (from your friends at *The Telegram*)

✓ Leif Carlson, Tyler Kuhn and Jared Shelton, for winning the second-

place team trophy in the Elementary Division at the University of Nebraska/Kearney Chess Classic Tournament last Saturday in Kearney. (e-mail)

✓ Kay Hawks, for your tireless efforts. We all enjoyed the KU-KSU game on channel 33. (brought in)

✓ Phillip and Gerry Loughry, on your

To me it comes down to definition. A mistake, according to the Merriam Webster's Dictionary, "is a misunderstanding of the meaning... or a wrong action proceeding from faulty judgment, inadequate knowledge or inattention." Negligence, on the other hand, "is failure to exercise the care that a prudent person usually exercises."

Many years ago while living in Nevada, two physicians made a bet to see who could perform a hysterectomy quicker. A woman died on the operating table. One doesn't need to study the definitions to determine whether this was a mistake or negligence.

The young soldiers faced with the friendly fire dilemma present quite a different situation. The people to hold accountable for this action are not in the cockpit or the supporting ground crew, but international policy run amok.

40th wedding anniversary. (by telephone)  
✓ Kayleigh Norwood, Eisenhower Elementary's spelling bee champion. (by telephone)

(Send you salute to tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave., or mail to the same address. Thanks for your input.)