

Kansas not among them

Forty-two gentlemen have served this country as its president. Ironically, our first president's first name was George and our current president's first name is also George. These 42 special people came from 20 different states, with the most (8) born in Virginia.

Ohio claims seven presidents, with Massachusetts and New York each having four. Texas, North Carolina and Vermont are birthplaces for two and all the rest one.

Research was an eye-opener. For example, we would have thought our current President, George W. Bush, was a Texan, but he wasn't, he was born in Connecticut. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, whom we Kansans claim as ours, is not, he was born in Texas.

President Gerald R. Ford, we thought was a Michigan product. He wasn't, his birthplace was Nebraska. And how about President Ronald Reagan. California, right? Wrong, he was born in Illinois. California, incidentally, has but one president by birth, and that was President Richard M. Nixon.

Here's the rundown, if we didn't mess up somewhere along the line — and their birthplaces:

- Virginia (8) — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William H. Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor and Woodrow Wilson
- Ohio (7) — Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William H. Taft, William McKinley and Warren G. Harding
- Massachusetts (4) — John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John F. Kennedy and George H.W. Bush
- New York (4) — Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Texas (2) — Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lyndon B. Johnson
- North Carolina (2) — James R. Polk and Andrew Johnson.
- Vermont (2) — Chester A. Arthur and Calvin Coolidge
- The rest had one (1):
- South Carolina — Andrew Jackson
- New Hampshire — Franklin Pierce
- Missouri — Harry S. Truman
- California — Richard M. Nixon
- Pennsylvania — James Buchanan
- Kentucky — Abraham Lincoln
- New Jersey — Grover Cleveland
- Iowa — Herbert Hoover
- Illinois — Ronald Reagan
- Georgia — Jimmy Carter
- Arkansas — Bill Clinton
- Nebraska — Gerald R. Ford
- Connecticut — George W. Bush

Our thinking today was to give you some information you might have wondered about, but never had the opportunity to research. We did that for you.

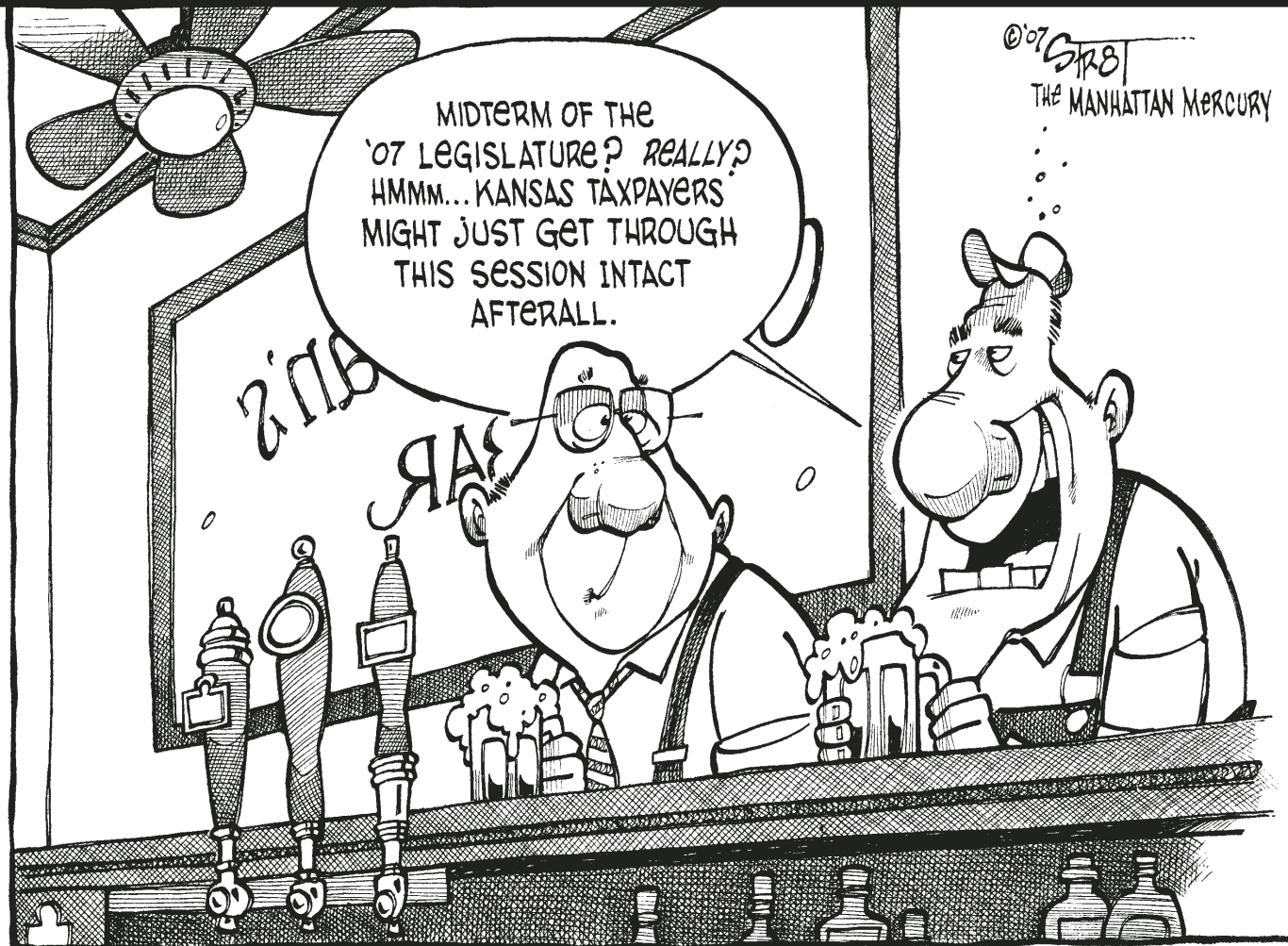
As we close this editorial down, this question comes to mind: Will this be the election that breaks the gentlemen's hold on the presidency?

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

- √ Dale and Katherine Severns, on your 59th wedding anniversary. (by regular mail)
- √ Norton Public Library librarian, who was so kind to carry my books to the car for me. (e-mail)
- √ Norton city snow crew, for removing the snow and ice at the end of Eisenhower Drive. Appreciated. (called in)
- √ Shari Coomes of Phillipsburg, for stopping to help me with my car troubles. (brought in)
- √ Charlene Watson, of Freelance Publishing Company, Barnard, Kan., for the interview with Katherine Severns about her new gospel CD. (mailed in)
- √ Kim Chambers, for the lock for the Locks! So Kind of you. (e-mail)
- √ Rich Miller and Norton County Hospital, for the certificate of appreciation presented as a result of your major renovation project of 2003. (Norton Telegram)
- √ Beverly Bethune, for sharing your experiences at the recent "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. (Norton Telegram)
- √ Nex-Tech Wireless, for the 38 school checks. A nice gesture. (called in)

(E-mail tom@nwkansas.com or call 877-6908 to have a salute appear in this weekly column.)



Better hide your brownies, Grandma

I see where some organization is taking on the Girl Scouts for selling cookies they call junk food and claiming the scouts are being used. I like Girl Scout cookies and in no way can I see how this misguided organization could classify them as junk food.

They are cookies and selling them does not violate the Girl Scout motto, as the organization claims. I'm not going to eat a box of those goodies all at one time, which, if I did, would be my fault if the cookies made me sick or caused me to gain a few pounds.

Let's see if I have this right:

- The war goes on in Iraq;
- We have major issues to settle here at home;
- Nearly two dozen people want to be our next president;
- The economy is not so good in many areas of the country;
- Snowstorms have crippled and killed.

All the while, there is an organization wanting us to quit buying, and God forbid, quit eating Girl Scout cookies!

What's next, Grandma's brownies?

I guess there were a lot of Norton wrestling fans surprised, when they left Gross Memorial Coliseum last Saturday night after the state tourney ended, that they would be spending the night in Hays. A winter storm closed I-70 from Salina to Denver. Our sports expert, Dick Boyd, found himself in that situation, but managed to secure a motel room for the night. It wasn't so much the amount of snow that was falling, but the strong winds blowing the stuff around, causing white out conditions. We are glad everyone arrived home safely.

Former Vice President Al Gore's documentary on global warming won an Oscar, as did the documentary's musical score. Now that Mr. Gore is an Oscar owner, talk now has him entering the 2008 presidential picture. I'm not so sure that Hollywood embracing him as they are, will help his cause should he jump in. He looked just too comfortable with the glitzy showbusiness crowd, and frankly he needs them more to promote his cause than we need him looking after our cause.

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, a Democratic presidential candidate, doesn't really want to be president, he wants to be Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's running mate. That fact became apparent when he all but ordered Sen. Barack Obama to apologize to Sen. Clinton for something a supporter of Obama said. Schoolyard stuff. So I cross Richardson off my list.

America's Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Republican presidential candidate, might be a bit too liberal to win the conservative support, the experts say. They also say Sen. John McCain will be 73 when he takes the oath (the age factor, but they aren't saying it that way). Additionally, former Governor Mitt Romney, a Mormon, has his religious practice hanging over his head, according to the experts. I think the experts need to hibernate longer, like the rest of 2007, because the election isn't until November 2008!

Incidentally, the latest poll shows Giuliani ahead of McCain 44 percent-21 percent.

He did it! Sen. McCain announced on The David Letterman Show Wednesday night that he is a candidate for the presidency in 2008. I must have missed something, I have thought all along he was a candidate. Little do I know! But, he qualified his announcement to say that the "official" announcement would be made next month. What he announced on Letterman's show was the announcement before the actual announcement.

Huh?! House Speaker Pelosi needs to clue us in why she placed Rep. Jefferson on the Homeland Security Committee, after she kicked him off the Ways and Means Com-

mittee. Jefferson, you recall, is the guy who had \$90,000 hiding in his freezer at home, prompting lots of questions and accusations. So far he hasn't been charged with anything, but the perception certainly screams something else. Speaker Pelosi, who promised her House would not tolerate anything that can't pass the smell test, flunked the test. Come clean, Madam Speaker, what's this all about?

Finally, Anna Nicole Smith is going to be buried next to her son in Bermuda today. I'm waiting to see now if the networks pull the plug on this grossly overplayed story. Bet they don't, bet they will find something else to justify a continuing assault on our intelligence. And they are the ones who boast of their credibility? What a laugh!

Each Friday night after work, Kaufy, born a Baptist, would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak. All of Kaufy's neighbors were Catholic, and since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday. The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steak was causing a problem of sorts for the Catholic faithful, so they enlisted the help of their priest. The priest visited Kaufy and suggested that maybe he should become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Kaufy attended Mass, and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him in baptism, he said, "You were born a Baptist, and raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic."

Kaufy's neighbors were so happy for him, that is until the next Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood again. The priest was called by the neighbors. So he went over to talk with Kaufy, clutching a rosary in his hand. The priest was stopped in his tracks when he saw Kaufy standing there in his backyard with a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling venison steak and chanted: "You were born a deer, you were raised a deer, but now you are a catfish."

Have a good evening. And extend that into a good weekend by attending the church of your choice.

Tips for dealing with aging parents

High Plains Mental Health By Ken Loos

Today, there are more than 35 million Americans who are 65 years-of-age or older. By the year 2030, that age group is expected to increase to about 71.5 million. Over the next 20 years, as the "Baby Boomers" age, the challenges facing senior citizens and their families will increase. Dealing with life losses and grief will be primary issues, but along with that is the need for good communication among family members in regards to the wishes and desires of their elderly members.

Many people have said, "change is constant" and "the price we pay" the longer we live. As people age, some of the changes they deal with are physical in nature, such as a decrease in energy and loss of physical strength, and some changes are cognitive, such as difficulty remembering certain events and a decrease in the ability to concentrate. Inevitable and unavoidable changes as people

age have to do with losses, particularly the deaths of family members, friends, neighbors, or a spouse. As parents age, good communication among family members is vital, especially as a means of preparing for new circumstances, before changes become major problems. For example, a discussion with aging parents about living arrangements is a difficult conversation, but can be much more difficult if family members wait for a health crisis to force such a discussion. Some aging parents reach a decision to

downsize or simplify their lives, which brings a good opportunity to talk with their adult children about finances, prized belongings, and how to disperse or divide property. Other issues to cover include what to do if one parent requires nursing home care, while the other is still able to live independently in their own home. It is also a good idea to talk about funeral arrangements long before the service is actually needed. Although it is hard to face the mortality of loved ones, when family members take the time early on to consider different ideas and opinions, this final loss can be dealt with better. When major decisions are made ahead of time, those involved can then focus more on feelings and the emotional support needed when the changes actually occur.

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