

Congressman Moran needs to stay the course

Congressman Todd Tiaht, R-Wichita, is digging deep in his sack of negatives to paint a picture of Congressman Jerry Moran, R-Hays, as someone he isn't. Tiaht and Moran are seeking the United States Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Sam Brownback, who is running for governor.

If illusionist Tiaht tries to pull Jerry Moran out of a hat on the political stage out here in the vast reaches of the First District, his act will most certainly bomb out. We know Jerry Moran and he's not the guy Tiaht and former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert — who is campaigning for Tiaht — want voters to believe.

Tiaht's campaign is lifting stuff from Hastert's book that attacks an unnamed congressman — but most insiders know who he's referring to. Hastert writes, "Some (House) members assured me they would be with us, but when the crunch came, they weren't. One prairie state member... voted no, then ran and hid," in apparent reference to Moran voting against the Medicare prescription drug bill.

Moran has said he neither ran nor hid, but opposed the bill because it was poor law, and we might add, because he was speaking for the majority of his constituency out here in the Big First District. And that's why we have him in Washington.

The theme of Tiaht's most recent attack on Moran can be summed up in one word — *indecisiveness*. Several other office holders have chimed in with their negative descriptions of Jerry Moran.

Well, folks, it makes sense. It really does. Rep. Moran is not your cookie cutter kind of politician. He's a decent guy, trying to do what he feels is in our best interests. And apparently, and unfortunately, Congress isn't running over with that kind of person. Mr. Hastert, it should be mentioned, hails from the same state as President Barack Obama — Illinois. And how many darts have been tossed in the direction of the president because of his political ties in that state? Perhaps Mr. Hastert has Illinois ties too, that could be questionable.

Early polling — the primary election is in 2010 — has Jerry Moran out front, not by much, but out front. He will undoubtedly carry the 69-county Big First again in fine fashion, but how he will fare in the other 36 counties is uncertain. But the more he appears in those areas of the state, the more they will get used to seeing in Jerry Moran what all of us have seen and invested in over the many years he served us in the House of Representatives.

Dennis Hastert can campaign all he wants in Kansas for Mr. Tiaht. But he can't vote here. And the Tiaht campaign's decision to pull stuff from Hastert's book makes little sense. Most Kansans are probably saying, "Dennis who?" Memories are short.

This campaign could easily turn into a mud mess. But we can only hope Rep. Moran stays the course that's led to his repeated re-elections.

-Tom Dreiling

Governor deserves applause

As the Executive Vice President of the American Heart Association's Midwest Affiliate and Kansas resident, I applaud Governor Mark Parkinson's pursuit of a statewide clean indoor air law. The governor clearly recognizes the dangers of secondhand smoke and how vital it is for all Kansans to avoid exposure to this life-threatening product.

We appreciate the governor's guidance as we work to join the 27 other states that have already passed smoke-free legislation.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with health risks in both children and adults. Because of these dangers, 35,052 nonsmokers die from coronary heart disease (CHD) each year as a result of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority estimates nearly 4,000 Kansans die each year from smoking-related diseases, including 290 blamed on secondhand smoke.



We look forward to the 2010 Legislative Session with great optimism that this will be the year for clean indoor air and a healthier Kansas!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you to make Kansas a smoke-free state!

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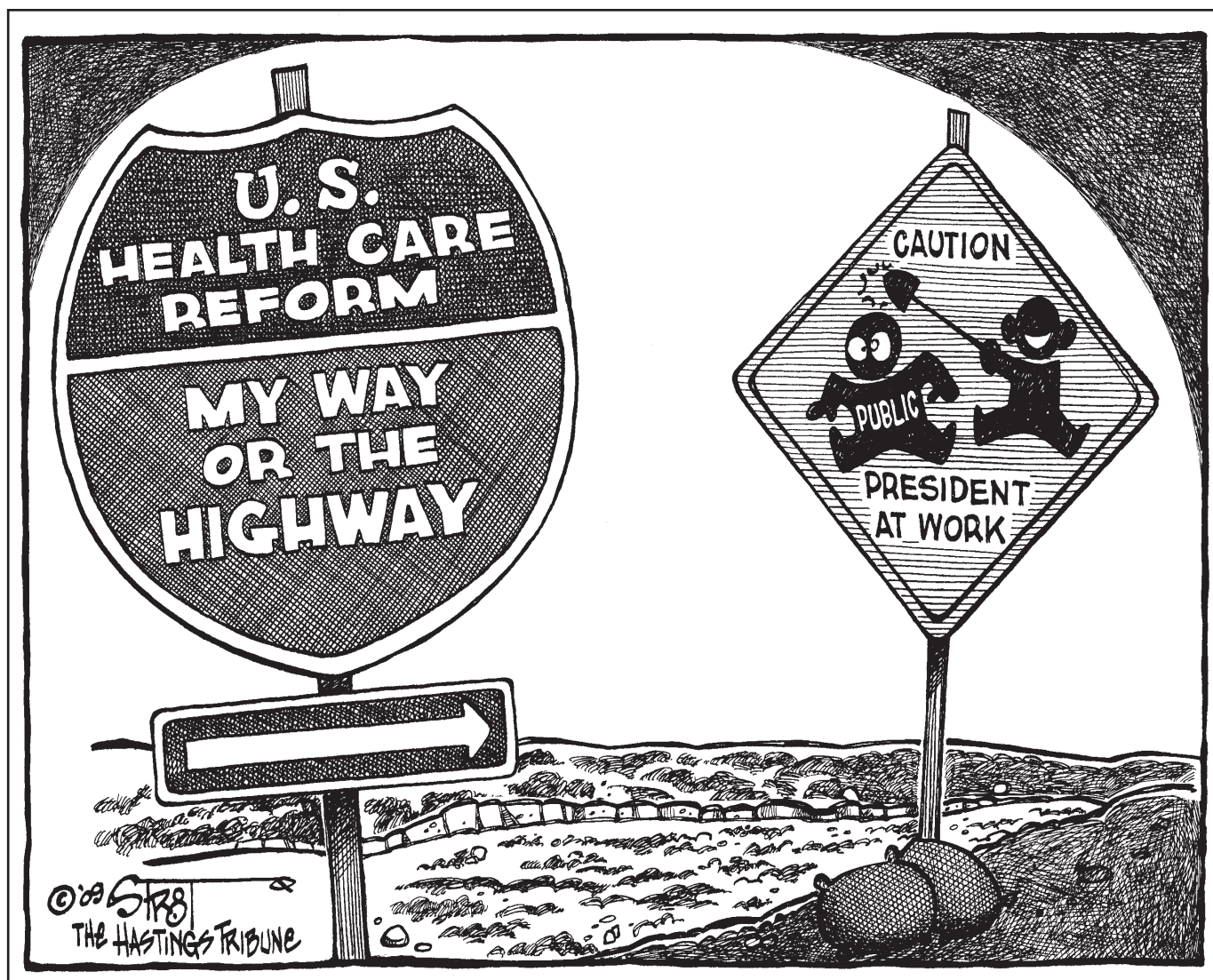
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Hey, don't knock it until you've tried it

I just couldn't pass up the following story to begin today's column. So, here goes: A little 3-year-old boy is seated on the toilet. His mother thinks he has been in there too long, so she goes in to see what's up. The little guy is sitting there reading a book. About every 15 seconds he puts the book down, grips onto the toilet seat with his left hand and hits himself on top of the head with his right hand. His mother watches this ritual for a while, then says, "Is everything okay? You've been in here quite a long time." The little boy replies, "I'm fine, Mommy. I just haven't gone doody yet." His mother tells him that's okay, to wait a few minutes longer. Before leaving the bathroom, she asks, "Why do you keep hitting yourself on the head?" The little boy looks up at his mother and says, "It works for ketchup!"

I receive tons of stuff on my computer, and among the clutter Thursday was the following and I can't verify that the television network named is indeed taking such a poll. The email says, "Here's your chance to let the media know where the people stand on our faith in God, as a nation... NBC is presently taking a poll on 'In God We Trust' to stay on our American currency. Please send this to every Christian you know so they can vote on this important subject. Please do it right away, before NBC takes this off their web page. Poll is still open so you can vote: www.

Let's Chat Tom Dreiling



msnbc.msn.com/id/10103521/." I have a problem with this kind of STUFF. Why would anyone ask their Christian friends (and just what is a Christian friend?), to reveal the addresses of their Christian friends to participate in a poll. When you do that, email grabbers (that's what I call scammers, cyber thieves, crooks, etc.), pick up those 'new' addresses. And if you wonder when you see an unfamiliar email how it found its way into your computer, well chances are good that at some time in the past a friend passed along your address when your friend was asked to share (whatever the cause might be) with 7 friends. Before the age of computers, these were known as 'chain letters.' Save yourself a headache and a headache for a friend — don't respond when asked to pass something along.

It just seems like you can't turn on your television without confronting a commercial guaranteeing to make you look younger. Years younger. Or see print advertisements with the same guarantee. Even AARP the Magazine

and the AARP Bulletin carry such pitches. If all of this advertised stuff does as it claims, well then (borrowing a slogan), "Houston, we have a problem." The problem simply is this: If we remake ourselves beyond what our creator intended, how is he going to recognize us when we stand at the Pearly Gates?" In the end that might be a bad deal!

Speaking of God, I read something a while back that said if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!

Healthcare reform. I can sort of remember what that was all about, but the way it's being tossed around, chiseled into, dropped and cracked, and kicked around like a political football, I think healthcare reform itself needs medical attention. The democrats and the republicans won't ever see eye to eye on this issue. I think President Obama won't get that piece of legislation in 2009, unless there is a miracle out there somewhere. And with 2010 being an election year for all 435 members of the House and a number of Senators, healthcare reform will be further discussed and cursed with an uncertain fate. I think the thinkers have a lot more thinking to do.

Have a good evening! And remember, while at the church of your choice this weekend, maybe a whisper to HIM might take care of what healthcare needs most.

There's nothing like a king size bed

Have you seen the commercial where the husband and wife, after their vacation, fall face forward, onto their own mattress? That is almost how Jim and I felt after returning from our vacation.

Not that our kids didn't have good mattresses for us to sleep on — they did. It's just that none of them were king size beds like we are used to. Even the one motel we stayed in only had queen size beds. We both like a lot of "sprawling" room.

We must have needed the break, though. One of our friends saw us a couple of days ago and said, "My, you two look refreshed." I told Jim we must have looked pretty exhausted before we left.

The worst part of being away from home for so long was returning to a mountain of junk mail. My shredder has been working overtime since our return

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



and I have already contributed one large bag of shredded paper to the recycling container.

I am the treasurer for three different organizations plus bookkeeper for Jim's construction business and our personal checking account. That meant five different bank statements had to be justified. No wait; only four. One club operates on a cash basis. But still....

After two late nights spent with bills and the calculator, I think I am back on track.

I need to call the bank to make sure I

entered all the debit card transactions, and I should be done. Not that I love paying bills, but there is a certain satisfaction derived from seeing something through to the end and marking a statement "Paid In Full." It might take me awhile, but everybody always gets paid. Sometimes, I have to remind myself of how to eat an elephant: One bite at a time.

-ob-
The editor of the newspaper where I used to work sometimes includes "blonde" jokes in his column. I like husband/wife jokes, too.

Did you hear about the wife who hinted to her husband about what she wanted for an anniversary present? She said, "I want something shiny that goes from zero to 150 in about three seconds."

He bought her a bathroom scale. And then, the fight started....

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