

Mann right on target with his term limits

Let's toss those critters out; all of 'em!
The critters in this case are members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.
Shoo, all of you!
We're all for that.
Or are we?
If that's your attitude then Jerry Moran is dead in the water.
Ditto, Pat Roberts.
"Well, I didn't really mean **them**," you would say.
Then who do you mean?
As you put your mind to the test you would mention high profile representatives from a lot of states. While you are doing that, the people living in those states are going down their check list and saying, "Kick those Jayhawk dudes out!"
So there you are. It's just all hot air.
Now, let's get to the bottom of all of this. We can eliminate those critters back there very easily with **term limits**. And don't dig up the old argument that we already have term limits in place — elections!
That doesn't get it.

In Kansas, folks, term limits would be a breath of fresh air, politically.. As it now stands once you are elected to the U.S. House or Senate, you are there till death do us part or until the office holder decides not to run again. Young people, and others interested in those offices, are turned off to politics for this very reason. They don't stand a chance because the incumbents stand in the way — with their pockets stuffed with cash from interests we've never heard of. Lobbyists too often have the loudest voice on Capitol Hill. It drowns ours out.

Term limits, on the other hand, would mandate you serve a set number of terms and then it's bye-bye. How about 12 years for the Senate, (two 6-year terms) and 8 years for the House (2 four-year terms).

Then new faces take over. New ideas come forth. New everything. There would even be a fresh smell coming from Washington.

It would also be a blessing if term limits were the order of the day for elective state offices in Kansas, too. If they aren't getting the job done, then why in the world do we keep sending them back?

Tracey Mann, who appears to be leading the pack for the First Congressional District seat, put it best when he told Tom Betz, *Star-News* editor in an interview for the April 30 issue, "...one of the best ways to reform Congress is to pass term limits." He feels that would help reduce the professional politicians and give more people an opportunity to serve.

And isn't that kind of what the founders had in mind?
If candidate Mann continues to emphasize the term limits option, the better his chances are of winning the 7-person Republican primary in August and going on to beat Democrat Alan Jilka in the November general election.

More and more people mention "term limits" now than ever before. And that's good! The mess we find ourselves in is courtesy of the **pass** "we the people..." give those people every time they humbly ask that we return them to the *Cashful Hill*.

And speaking of cash, why is it we cannot require that those seeking Senate and Congressional seats accept contributions only within the state as follows:

- ✓ Senate — from all 105 counties.
- ✓ House of Representatives — from within the district they represent only.
- ✓ Anything outside the state, or the district, would be an illegal transaction, with a fine and jail sentence.

When they are required to accept funding as outlined, it comes from those you are representing. But when the flood gates are open, as is the ongoing case, you are obligating yourself to others who don't give a hoot about the Sunflower State.

In the absence of term limits, those birds can nest comfortably back there on the Hill because the issues discussed in this editorial will never see daylight.

Never.
And how sad is that?.

-TD



Congratulations Arizona

Congratulations to the state of Arizona for having the guts to do what our elected people in Washington don't have the guts to do . . . protect us from illegal immigrants, murderers and drug runners.
Unfortunately, we have an administra-



tion that is more interested in controlling our country instead of protecting it. Not re-electing incumbents and demanding term limits might start us in the right position.
R.W. Yeager
Norton

Recognizing youth dangers

As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends, we all recognize the dangers our youth face as they tread the murky waters of adolescence. As much as we like to think we can foresee and avoid the problems for our child, we can't. It is a journey they travel on their own, but having said that, the importance of family, friends and community cannot be ignored either.
A recent letter to the editor has opened the door to a subject that is often left unspoken . . . suicide. I believe suicide is as serious a threat to our youth as drugs, alcohol or risky sexual behavior and yet frequently it is a subject left unspoken because of the stigma.

Few things can be as devastating to a family as the loss of a child, regardless of the age. The manner in which they die can be equally as devastating. Suicide leaves many unanswered questions and the feelings of guilt and despair may torment the survivors forever. We often feel helpless in the face of the threat and hopeless in its completion.

The warning signs of suicide are similar at all ages, and yet have variations depending on the stage of life. Often times a student will exhibit their feelings

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



through poems, writings or obsessions with death. Other times they may tell you "nothing matters" or "that it is no use." Many of the symptoms overlap with symptoms of alcohol or drug abuse such as: poor academic performance, withdrawal from family and friends, lack of interest in appearance and acts of anger and rage. They also may suffer from guilt and have little interest in activities they used to love.

Frequently we know the signs, but don't know how to approach the problem. We may fear if we ask it will propel them into action. Studies I have read suggest the opposite. Our inquiries may signify to them our interest and concern and open the door for help.

Seventeen percent of high school youth report having thought seriously about suicide, 13 percent have made plans and

in the year prior to this survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHA), 8 percent had attempted taking their life. Sadly, nearly 5,000 young people between the ages of 15-24, accomplish the task annually, making suicide the third leading cause of death for adolescents and second for college age youth.

Many states, including Kansas, have programs to help the prevention of suicide, but like so many things, as individuals we must take responsibility and educate ourselves to recognize the signs of impending danger. Even armed with that knowledge we have no guarantees, but hopefully education is power.

Communication remains key to helping our young people or anyone who is struggling. No matter what is occurring in our lives, we all like to be heard. In the midst of feeling helpless we can try to listen with an open mind and an absence of judgment. It sounds simple, but it isn't always. For family, friends and communities however it may be key to our survival. I used to tell our children, actually I still do, "Share a joy and it's twice the happiness; share a sorrow and it's half the grief."

Caller ID etiquette

Back Home Nancy Hagman



If I ever run into Emily Post, I'm going to ask her: Just what is the proper etiquette for using caller ID? Have you ever called a wrong number and later had the person call you back, asking why you called?

I usually don't return calls unless there is a message. Though sometimes I will call a person back if it is someone I know or would enjoy visiting with!

The hubby hates answering machines so he never leaves a message unless it is urgent or important or both! Last week a gal called and wanted to know why we called her. I had no idea who she was. I told her I guessed it was a wrong number, she then asked if we were calling about the farm service her husband advertises! Ah, yes, I'm sure that's it I said. But I was annoyed. Her manner and tone seemed rude and unprofessional.

Do you ever screen your calls? Come on, admit it! It may be weird, but I hate to answer the phone unless I know who it is. A few months ago we were getting some prank calls. The number would come up unavailable.

Often the calls were in the middle of the night. When the phone rings in the middle of the night, you answer it. And it is more than irritating to have a heavy breather on the other end of the line after

being awakened from a deep slumber and stumbling to the phone. We thought about turning the ringers off at night but were afraid we'd forget to turn them back on or we would miss an emergency.

The phone company claimed they could not help other than block all unavailable numbers. Didn't want to do that because sometimes when the banker calls the number is unavailable! I always want to talk to the banker! Best not block him—he might get annoyed! I suppose there is a reason the banker has to make calls on an unlisted line! Say maybe he's calling to tell you the repo guy is in the yard and he needs the keys to the car! (I'm just surmising here, no personal experience!)

Another suggestion from the phone company was to get an unlisted number, but then we would have to tell everyone the new number. What if we forgot someone important (like the banker)!

Back to the heavy breather, it stopped for awhile and then it started anew. He never said much, until one day when the hubby answered the phone. The hubby wouldn't even tell me what he said, but he was alarmed enough to call the sheriff. Come to find out the phone company can and will find out who is calling you if you involve law enforcement!

We aren't getting those calls anymore!

In the end I'm not sure it makes sense to pay extra for caller ID. But we do! It comes in handy when you get a message like this, "It's me; I'll catch you later." And you do not recognize the voice!

Sometimes caller ID can really give you pause. Like today; I got a phone call from church.

Voice says: "Nancy, did they tell you your final appointment is at 9:20 this evening?"

Me: GULP. "Lord, is that YOU?"
Whew — it was just Preacher Dave confirming the time for our photo for the church directory.

I told him he might want to rethink the way he words his reminders!

Even though I'm not quite ready to go, Heaven is definitely The One Place I hope my number is listed and available!



To . . . Lisa Deines, the prolific writer who tells things the way they were. I hope she puts all of it in a book, or two, or three. (E-mailed)

To . . . Thanks to the city and county for the spring cleanup. We know budgets are tight and appreciate it. (Called in)

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