

Senator endorses the "Voter ID" law

It's disappointing to see Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican candidate for governor, jump in and endorse calls for a "voter ID" law in Kansas.

The senator, in a press release Monday with the party's candidate for secretary of state, Kris Kobach, pledged they would work together to pass such a law.

And while this newspaper generally leans Republican, we see this as foolish. There is no evidence Kansas has a vote fraud problem. Under long-time Republican Secretary of State Ron Thornburg, Kansas has had clean elections for years. That has not changed.

Kobach, a law professor and anti-immigration activist, is way out in right field on this issue. He tries to scare voters with the specter of illegal immigrants somehow tainting Kansas elections.

But this is a solution looking for a problem. With no evidence of voter fraud or of illegals trying to vote, we think Kobach is just trying to scare us. That's wrong, and it's wrong for Sen. Brownback to get involved.

We know the senator, as leader of the Republican ticket and an apparent shoo-in candidate, needs to do what he can for the entire ticket. But Kobach is a one-issue candidate - illegal immigration - running for an office that has nothing to do with immigration.

Kansas has plenty of problems, starting with a budget that has ballooned under the influence of government "mandates" and pressure from schools and public employees. We can't pay for the demands of schools, prisons, roads and other programs. Taxes are high and rising; the property tax is out of control.

All these are things we will look to Gov. Brownback to find solutions for. The state needs leadership that will bring big government under control and provide a fertile climate for small business and job growth.

We need lower spending, a lid on taxes and leaders who will interpret the role of government as something less than all-encompassing. We have not had that for the last seven years.

Instead, we've seen the budget grow, taxes increased at the city, county, school district and state level. We've seen nothing to indicate that the governor's office even cared about those issues.

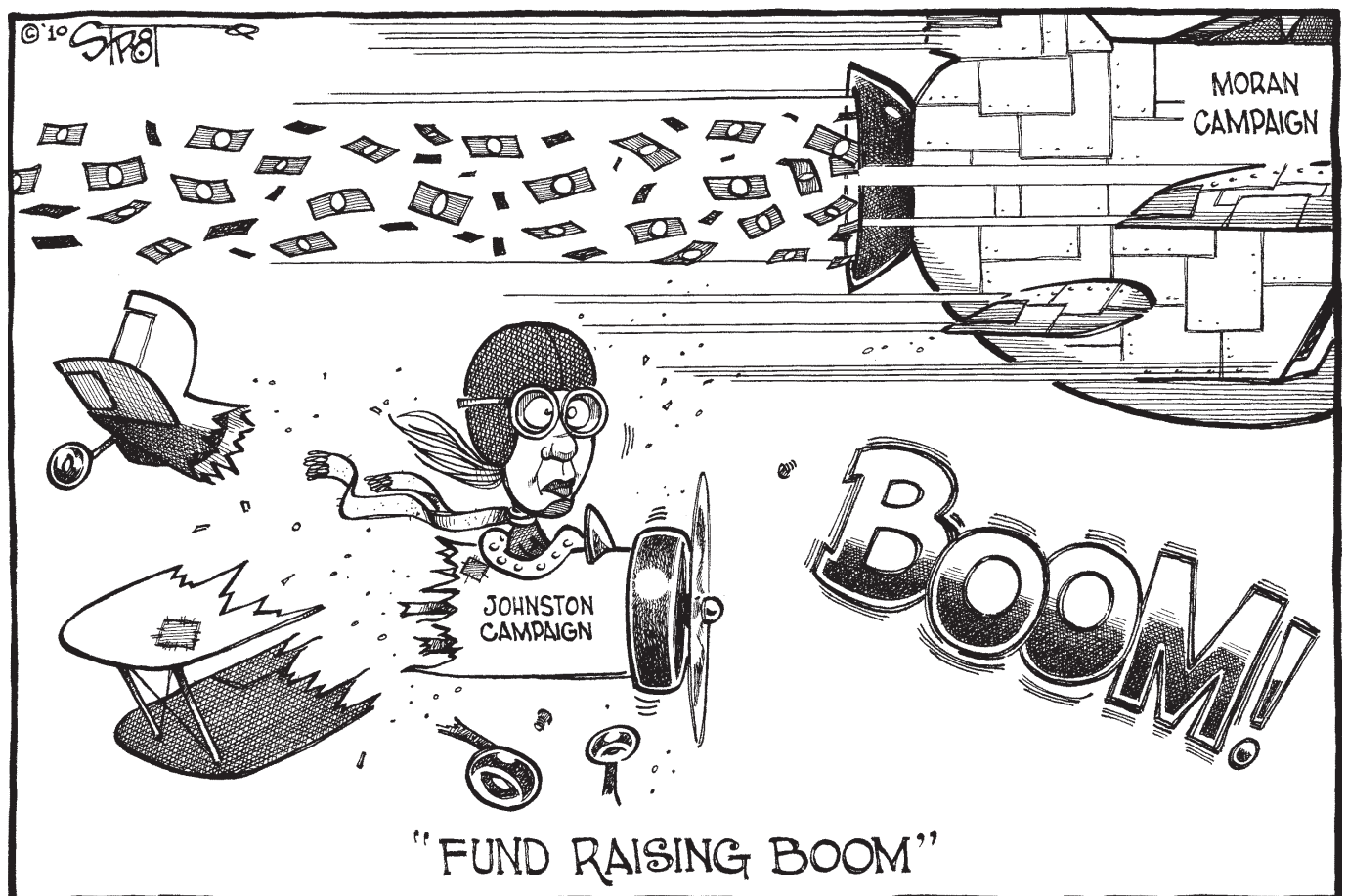
Here, however, we have two Republicans pushing a big-government bill to tighten the noose of security-apparatus control around all Kansans' necks. That's not something that those who love freedom should applaud.

It's not something Mr. Brownback should give credence to.

And it's not something Kansas needs.

Give it a rest, gentlemen.

Steve Haynes



Don't let ignorance nor arrogance sway your vote

Some people just don't bring out the best in us and that is best exemplified by politics and politicians. During these 2010 midterm elections we have been entertained and maddened by both ignorance and arrogance.

Consider the following:

In the Kentucky Senatorial debate, Jack Conway (D) attacked Rand Paul (R) regarding a college prank of 30 years ago. If you can't dig up any dirt other than some thirty year ago... give it up. Question his alleged medical "board certification," which is relevant.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' wife is demanding an apology from Anita Hill for her testimony nineteen years ago claiming inappropriate sexual behavior from the then nominee to the high court. Why bring it up now?

Phrases, such as "man-up" have been used by both parties and both genders, but this past week Sarah Palin implored GOPers to accept the Tea Party agenda,

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Saturday Night Live skit is only one of many.

Elizabeth Dole is running to retain her Senate seat in North Carolina. Her opponent, Kay Hagan, has been leading and one wonders if negative ads by Dole are the reason. Dole has accused her opponent as being "godless". And she knows this, how?

And just when you thought there could be no more surprises from Christine O'Donnell, she touts her knowledge of the Constitution as opposed to Coon's Yale education. After all her education at Oxford, oh, no, that was a rented room from Oxford University. Now that is a scary thought.

I've always wondered if there was a reason elections were held close to Halloween, and now I am sure of it. This year candidates will be given two days to take off their masks and reveal their true identity. Want to take any bets?

insinuating all GOPers are male. Sharon Angle, Nevada Senator Harry Reid's rival, used the phrase as well, regarding Social Security funding. The most visible Tea Party candidates are female, which judging from the caliber of those candidates we should all tremble in our heels.

The debate between Christine O'Donnell (R) aka Tea Party and Chris Coons (D) for Joe Biden's vacated Senate seat provided a plug for Saturday Night Live if nothing else. I'm sure any re-creation of the show would not require a rewrite of O'Donnell's script. She has many similarities to Sarah Palin and the

Watch your children around farm machinery

The dream of many young farm boys and girls is to ride with their fathers on a tractor. For a youngster, the mammoth tractor epitomizes raw power, responsibility and coming of age.

Nothing is more exciting to youngsters than the belch of diesel smoke, the roar of engines and rubber wheels rolling on ranchers can be too careful about every-powerful tractors, combines or silage cutters. They draw children like a moth to a flame and, like fire, can be dangerous.

Such equipment can cut, crush or trap children. It holds potential harm for the children. It holds potential harm for the children. It holds potential harm for the children.

Never invite your children to ride in the tractor with you. Stress that your youngsters stay away from machinery. Never let them play or hide under or around machinery like tractors.

Farms offer children a unique environment to live, play, work and grow up. As a parent, I can remember tossing a lasso as a child, I can remember tossing a lasso as a child, I can remember tossing a lasso as a child.

of five, this giant silver machine symbolized the far away Rocky Mountains and was scaling their peaks like my legendary hero, Jim Bridger.

Safety experts label agriculture one of the most hazardous occupations, and farm children are routinely exposed to the same hazards as their parents who work the farm. Each year, hundreds of children are killed and thousands more are injured in farm-related incidents, according to National Safety Council statistics.

Veteran Kansas Farm Bureau safety director Holly Higgins has logged 33 years of education and awareness are the key ingredients to help make the farm a safer place for children to play, Higgins

Insight

John Schlageck

suggests. Brushing up on some of the potential hazards can also make it safer for parents.

Animals - even friendly ones - can be unpredictable. Have your children stay away from large ones. Emphasize they stay away from animals with newborn or young. Tell them to remain calm, speak quietly and move slowly when around animals.

While barns, grain handling facilities and big buildings can be fun to play in, falls can occur or children may be exposed to harmful substances like chemicals and electricity.

Wide-open spaces also provide children with ideal playgrounds. This isolation may also lead to difficulty finding help in the event of an emergency.

Explain the dangers associated with stored grain. Stress the principles that grain can entrap a person almost immediately. Children should never play around or in grain that is stored in bins, trucks or wagons. Emphasize that it is difficult or can be impossible to pull even a child out of grain if he/she becomes trapped.

Remember, it is important that youngsters have a safe place to play. Ask them to identify safe play areas. Talk about areas away from farm machinery, animals, manure pits, silos, etc. Carefully define safe boundaries. Let them know where they can and cannot play.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.



Thumbs up to Marvin Matchett for being such a good sport and to all of those Husker and Wildcat fans who donated to such a good cause. Called in.

Thumbs up to all of those that donated blood Tuesday. Emailed in.

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