

Resignation is difficult but the state will survive

The resignation Friday of Paul Morrison as Kansas attorney general is a personal and political tragedy, one the state will survive, but difficult nonetheless.

It marked the first time in many decades that a Kansas state official has been driven from office, though at least two previous attorney generals became ensnared in sex scandals.

It also marked a strange end to a somewhat strange political career.

Just short of a year in office, Mr. Morrison left a week after the *Topeka Capital-Journal* revealed details of a sexual harassment complaint filed against him by a former employee.

The complaint alleged the former attorney general conducted a two-year affair with the director of administration in the Johnson County district attorney's office before and while he was running for attorney general and after he took office. As district attorney, of course, he was her boss.

That would cover the time he was running against Phill Kline, the incumbent Republican. During that same campaign, the erstwhile attorney general promised to restore integrity to an office he claimed Mr. Kline had used to pursue a "personal agenda."

The Morrison campaign ran two sets of television ads at one point, the first attacking Mr. Kline, the second featuring the candidate's family.

On one hand, the ads used half truths to undermine the incumbent — charging that he was out to get everyone's private medical records when in fact the attorney general had asked for a few dozen records from abortion clinics he accused of breaking state law. Phill Kline wound up being painted as some sort of evil ogre, an image the dour Kline never successfully shook off.

On the other, the ads portrayed the Democrat candidate as a decent family man surrounded by a loving wife and children. And while that may be true, it obviously wasn't the whole truth.

While all this was going on, strange things were happening in Johnson County. Because Mr. Morrison was elected and served 18 years in office as a Republican before being recruited by the Democrats to run against Mr. Kline, the

Republican county committee got to pick his replacement.

That turned out to be the same Phill Kline he'd just defeated. That make Linda Carter, who later would file a federal civil rights complaint against the attorney general, Mr. Kline's employee.

And Mr. Morrison might have survived her charges about their affair had that been the end of it. She says it wasn't. Part of her claim, as revealed by the *Capital-Journal*, is that after moving to Topeka, Mr. Morrison attempted to persuade her to give him details of the district attorney's operation, including a request for support for eight employees Mr. Kline fired when he took over. He also allegedly tried to get details of what was going on in the office, which she viewed as improper.

Those allegations, which Mr. Morrison turned over to the state office which investigates complaints against lawyers, may have been his undoing as much as anything.

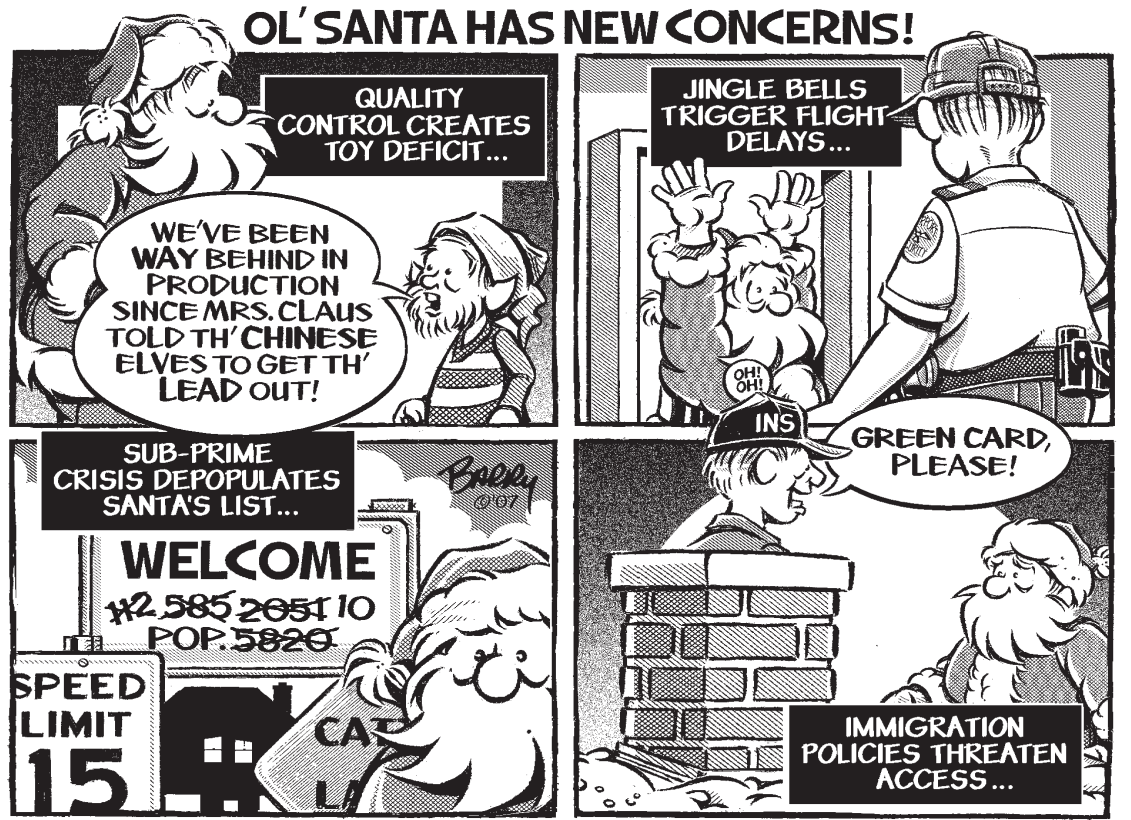
It was obvious he was near his end when the governor who had recruited him took great pains to distance herself from her one-time ally. She got so far behind him, she couldn't see him: her statement implied that "if the allegations were proven," he might well have to resign.

So much for party solidarity. Without support from his new friends, and viewed as a traitor by most Republicans, the attorney general was out on the end of the proverbial limb. It will be up to his successor, whoever the governor names, to restore integrity to the office.

How all that will affect the political scene is a big unknown. Mr. Morrison's swift resignation cut off a budding swell of Republican comments. The governor, just a year into her second term, has been talked up as a Democratic candidate for vice president should Hillary Clinton not win the presidential slot — or as a candidate for the U.S. Senate when Sam Brownback steps down in 2010.

Some of the scandal could wear off on her, but observers say three years gives voters plenty of time to forget the Morrison debacle.

For her, perhaps, a minor irritation. For Mr. Morrison, a career. — Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



It's funny how life changes and the different roles you play. For instance, it's a little weird finding presents for kids.

These days kids want stuff that sells at some Computer Land place or locked behind Plexiglas doors at the nearest, super department store. It requires some sales clerk in his late adolescence to tell you how "cool" a gadget is and how your kid will think you're "totally rad" for buying it.

The problem with this is that I don't understand how this junk works or if it will be fun. Am I wrong or was life less complicated when I was a boy?

In my day the Sear's catalog

showed up at the house a few weeks before Christmas. My favorite page had the green and yellow plastic army men on it.

Each year it seemed there were more men; 200, 300 to 500 fighting figures! And the boxed sets came with tanks, airplanes, trucks, Jeeps and amphibious landing craft. There were also cannons and sandbags, plus plastic trees and rocks.

I would get a red crayon and circle the plastic army set every year. Other toys on the pages were Lincoln Logs, Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots, Matchbox cars, G.I. Joes, Erector Sets, Lionel Train sets and lots of toys made by Wham-o.

The best part was, most of the

toys we played with didn't need to be plugged into a wall. Therefore we could take what we wanted and play outside!

A sand pile became a giant battle field. The patio was a race track. The grass was an untamed jungle. A snow drift transformed into a castle. Our only limitation was how far our imaginations could go and remembering where all the green and yellow army men were buried.

I enjoy most of the aspects of my role as a parent. But I'm afraid I just wasn't trained for today's toys.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Lines From the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt The St. Francis Public Library has the following new books: *You've Been Warned* by James Patterson; *The Chase* by Clive Cussler; *Between Sundays* by Karen Kingsbury; *Creation In Death* by Nora Roberts; *Miss Katie's Rosewood* by Michael Phillips; *The Darkest Evening Of The Year* by Dean Koontz; *Amazing Grace* by Danielle Steel; *Book Of The Dead* by Patricia Cornwell; *Now and Then* by Robert Parker; *Long Tall Texas Legacy* by Diana Palmer; *The Heir* by Barbara Bradford; *Bluebonnet Belle* by Lori Copeland; *Secrets In The Attic* by V.C. Andrews; *The Last Noel* by Heather Graham; *A Week From Sunday* by Dorothy Garlock; *The Dark Side Of Midnight* by Sidney Sheldon; *Where My Heart Belongs* by Tracie Peterson; *Stone Cold* by David Baldacci; *Double Cross* by James Patterson; *Unwrapping Christmas* by Lori Copeland; *Home To Holly Springs* by Jan Karon; *Everlasting* by Kathleen Woodiwiss; *Quiet Strength* by Tony Dungy; *The Gift* by Richard Evans; 6

Rainier Drive by Debbie Macomber; *Become A Better You* by Joel Osteen; *Pandora's Daughter* by Iris Johansen; *Dark Side Of Moon* by John Sandford; *A Christmas Visitor* by Thomas Kinkade; *Last Known Victim* by Erica Spindler; *Hide And Seek* by Fern Michaels; *Shoot Him If He Runs* by Stuart Woods; *Where Angels Go* by Debbie Macomber; *Blaze* by Stephen King; *Finding Father Christmas* by Robin Jones Gunn; 74 Seaside Avenue by Debbie Macomber; *The Guardian* by Dee Henderson; *Up Country* by Nelson DeMille; *Dark Lady* by Richard North Patterson; *The Billy*

Graham Story by John Pollock; *The Storekeeper's Daughter* by Wanda Brunstetter; *The Quilter's Daughter* by Wanda Brunstetter; *The Bishop's Daughter* by Wanda Brunstetter; *Candle In The Darkness* by Lynn Austin; *Fire By Night* by Lynn Austin.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department: *Emily, The Emerald Fairy* by Daisy Meadows; *Chloe, The Topaz Fairy* by Daisy Meadows; *Eloise's Summer Vacation* by Lisa McClatchy; *Eloise And The Big Parade* by Lisa McClatchy.



Hangin' With Marge

Canned Soup

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net Have you ever picked up something at the grocery store so you will have it on hand in case of you might need that quick fix meal? Well that is exactly what I did and last night was the night I needed it.

After working all day and having a play to go to I grabbed the can of Campbell's soup to heat up. Kurt and I only had about 30 minutes to get the meal ready, eat and go back to town.

I tried really hard to see if you added water and of course there was no directions on the can, but knowing that the one can would not be enough quite enough I just added a little water.

When we set down to eat we both took a bite about the same time. Kurt is so nice he wouldn't say a word, but the look on his face told the story.

I said, "Wow, this is horrible!" to which he added, "It is kind of watered down isn't it." I told him it was but that wasn't the only problem.

A few more bites later and I was getting up and getting the can out of the trash and picked out all of the meat pieces and put them back in the can. When I got done Kurt took the can and was reading it. He said, "It says the meat is made from beef droppings." I told him they tasted more like cow droppings to me.

He stopped eating it, I of course finished eating the beans and watered down juice and we went to town.

All I know it wasn't good and it gave you heartburn deluxe!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Kirk Grizzell, Macksville; Milton Lampe, St. Francis; Doug Sloper, Thornton, Colo.; Dan Knorr, Olathe; Colby Community College, Colby; Alice Schauer, St. Francis; Pat Northrup, St. Francis; Harland Rogers, St. Francis; Ed and Sharon Deeds, Goodland; Roger Brenner, Kirk, Colo.; Mary Lou Murphy, Broomfield, Colo.; Lavern Schauer, Fremont, Neb.; Neala Carmichael, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:21

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Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis Community Church 332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

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