



Plan maybe a solution in search of a problem

The recurring plan to make Kansas voters show photo identification at the polls seems like a solution in search of a problem.

Kansas has no record of vote fraud. Since only registered voters are allowed in our elections, there's not much chance illegal aliens, or even legal aliens, will be voting.

Republicans, who are pushing this bill as a party-line vote, apparently think Democrats are less likely to carry a driver's license.

Why that will give one party an advantage we can't figure. In fact, we can't figure out why we need this bill at all.

We have enough red tape and bureaucracy today without making election clerks slow down to check ID. If a voter is known to them, they should just give him or her a ballot and send the voter off to a booth?

If a judge has any reason to suspect a voter isn't who he says he is, the judge should be allowed to ask for identification. And the voter

ought to be happy to produce it.

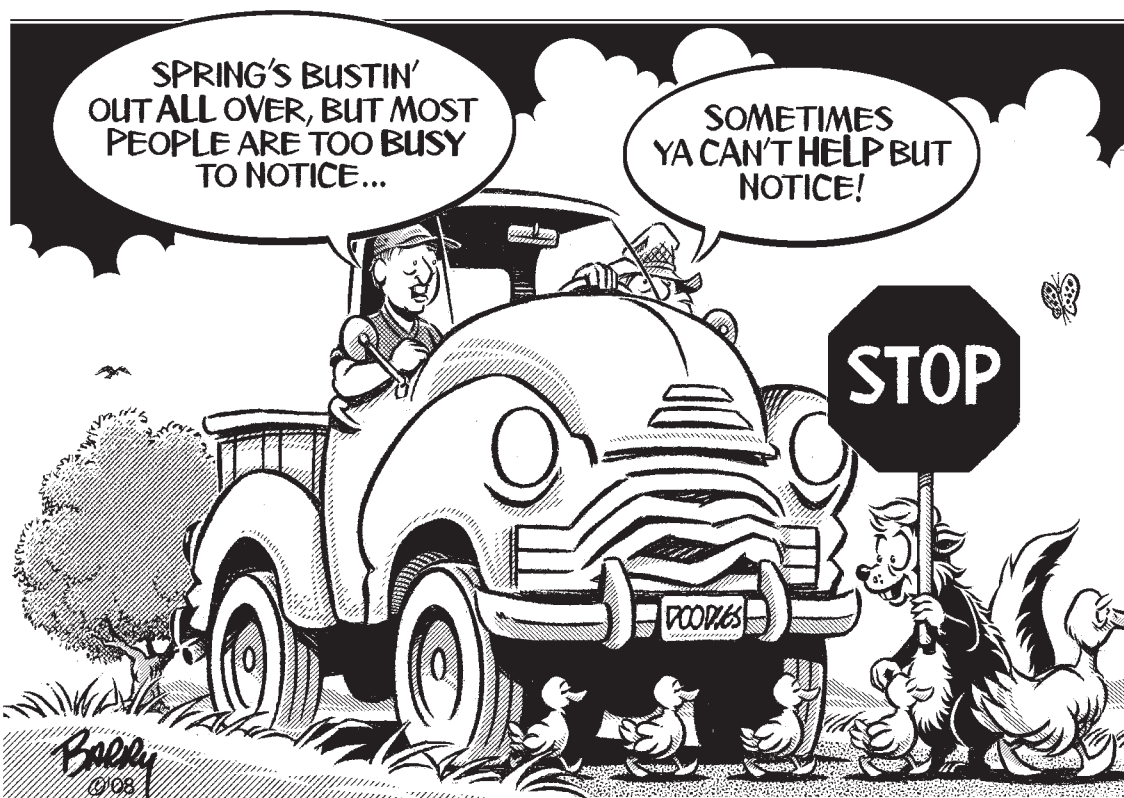
Unless fraud becomes a problem, though, why make voting more difficult? Why insult us with requirements to remember our identification and, perhaps, keep some people from voting?

You'd think Kansas Republicans have more important fish to fry, like finding a program to base their platform on, or finding candidates for governor and senator in the coming 2010 elections. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will leave Cedar Crest and likely seek a ticket to Washington, if she's not vice president by then.

The prospect of the likable, if liberal, governor replacing Sen. Sam Brownback and the turncoat former GOP chairman Mark Parkinson taking her place in Topeka ought to be enough to scare the wits out of Republicans.

They should quit wasting time on bogus issues like voter ID and get down to business. This bill deserves an early death.

— Steve Haynes



Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Phonics

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I sure wish I would have been just a little older or a little younger so I would have missed the sight reading in my early school years. If only I could have had phonics, my life would have been so much easier.

People say that you can use a dictionary but without knowing your sounds it is hard to locate any word in the dictionary.

A few weeks ago I had some medical tests ran, not because I

am sick, but because I decided that it was time to have normal testing done. Just in case I got sick there would be something to compare to.

At the same time we went to Wichita. While we were there our daughter-in-law and grandchildren took us to Botanical Gardens. Someone took a picture of me while I was playing with Tucker and Sawyer so I sent it to Kurt's sister so she could see the kids.

Clover e-mailed me back and ask what kind of diet I was on as

I looked like I had lost weight. I wrote her back and said it had to be the picture, however I had been fasting for my--and I couldn't spell it. So I sounded out the word and this is now it sounded to me: colon-aus-to-pee.

She wrote me back and said she didn't like the sound of the diet, but thanked me for the advise.

Now aren't you all glad that you had phonics in school?

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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We've lost another one. News came this week of the death of Charlton Heston. At 84-years-old, Alzheimer's brought a sad ending to the life story of an American legend.

Of course we all knew of the actor who played Moses and Ben Hur. But Heston also was an outspoken advocate on issues such as civil rights and the second amendment.

He was a member of the individuals who dropped their private lives to raise arms against the Axis powers in World War II. Heston spent two years as a radio operator and gunner on B-25s in the Aleutian Islands with the Army Air Corps.

After the war he returned to civilian life. But he was still among

the people who were at the forefront of a changing United States.

Heston changed as well. He was the head of the Screen Actors Guild from 1965-71, the stand he took on issues was more toward the liberal left. But as he grew older his political views leaned more to the conservative right. Heston was president of the National Rifle Association from 1998 to 2003, letting go of the reins only five years before his death.

What I find sad is that these days we are loosing the people of

what Tom Brokaw described as "The Greatest Generation."

Gone are the Ronald Reagans, the John Waynes and the Charlton Hestons. But worse is the loss of the citizen soldiers of World War II. Statisticians claim that 1,000 of them leave us each day.

Will younger generations have the courage to make the sacrifices and stay the course to keep this country on track? I hope so.

Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

He Chose The Nails

By Max Lucado

Much has been said about the gift of the cross itself, but what of the other gifts? What of the nails, the crown of thorns? What about the garment taken? What about the garments given? Have you taken the time to open these gifts.

He didn't have to give them. You know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood. Yet He did much more.

So much more. Search the cross, and what do you find?

A wine-soaked sponge. A sign. Two crosses beside Christ.

Let's examine them, shall we? Let's unwrap these gifts of grace as if...or perhaps, indeed...for the first time. And as you touch them... as you feel the timber of the cross and trace the braid of the crown and finger the point of the spike... pause and listen. Perchance you will hear Him whisper.

I did it just for you.

GOD SAYS A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Ecclesiastes 7:1

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News From the Past

10 years ago - 1998

Erin Day, St. Francis, was crowned as the 1998 Kansas Junior Miss at Belleville. She will be representing Kansas in the national competition in June in Mobile, Ala. Erin did an outstanding job in the Presence and Composure division and the Creative and Performing Arts division, winning both of them. Her talent number was a piano selection "Warsaw Concerto."

Each year in which the Cheyenne Theater players present a play, the people come. This year's musical "Hello Dolly"

was attended by approximately 1,000 during the four performances.

Steve Haynes, co-owner and co-publisher of the Nor'West newspapers, took the office of president of the Kansas Press Association.

30 years ago - 1978

St. Francis as a city, will reach its Diamond Anniversary on April 9. The city was incorporated on April 9, 1903, after the board of county commissioners gave it approval to incorporate as a third-class city. St. Francis had about 300 residents at

the time and a majority of the eligible voters had sought the incorporation. At the first election on April 21, L.E. Hamison was named mayor, I.D Hall was elected as police judge and councilmen elected were A.E. Smull, G.A. Benkelman, C.E. Burnham, H.B. Bear and J.J. Armstrong.

Two new school records were set in the first track meet of the year, which was held in Burlington. Dan Winston set a new record in the two-mile run and Darrel Boll set a new record in the high jump.

Lodge corresponds with soldier

Letter to the Editor

In June 2007, Mary Ruth Burkett, Noble Grand, and members of Rising Star Rebekah Lodge signed and mailed United States flag postcards, made of fabric, to six unnamed soldiers. Through Penny's Postcard Posse, the postcards were mailed and were intended to reach soldiers as a Fourth of July expression of our appreciation of their service.

A few weeks ago, the following letter from one of the recipients was received. Members of the Lodge want to share it.

Dear Mary Ruth, Fred, Marsha, Elsie, Vicki, Patrick and Ruth,

Thank you for your small flag. You are sincerely welcome. It always makes me proud when great Americans like yourselves thank me for my service. I accept your thanks on behalf of the thousands of my fellow airmen, soldiers, sailors, and marines deployed here with me.

I apologize for not introducing myself. I am Lieutenant Colonel Raul Garcia, U.S. Air Force. I was born in 1965 in North Carolina. My mother is German and my father is Mexican. I grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and graduated

from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1987. After 20 years, I volunteered to come here to help the Afghan people have the freedom and liberty you and I enjoy at home. I have deployed many times before.

Things have gotten better for us since I first deployed to Desert Storm in 1991. The internet has made the world smaller and a lot of the young service men and women use it everyday to keep in touch with their families. It is really great to see.

The job we do here has not changed. There is still danger and people who do not like us. As usual, the media does not report the entire story. The Afghan people are very proud of their country. However, the decades of war that these people have endured resulted in only a few being able to read, write and perform simple math. Can you imagine bringing a laptop to an Afghan policeman and asking him to fill out an application? Or teach them how to send an e-mail? He wouldn't know because he doesn't

know how to write.

But slowly we are teaching them how to protect themselves and provide law and order to their country. I have no doubt Afghanistan will be on it's feet in 5-10 years. These people are determined!

Like every soldier, sailor and airman here; I look forward to coming home. I have a wife, son and two daughters waiting for me. They are my support that keeps me going. And now I have seven more reasons to get home. Your quick note has touched me and renewed my faith in America. Your support will carry me through my deployment. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely, Paul V. Garcia. Lt. Col., U.S.A.F.

After receiving this letter, Rising Star Rebekah Lodge adopted Lt. Col. Garcia as "Our Soldier." He will be receiving regular mailings and boxes of goodies from the members, along with our best wishes throughout the remainder of his deployment.

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