



## Will money and greed trump football tradition?

The upcoming dismemberment of the Big 12 conference would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. Now, the University of Kansas and Kansas State, together with Iowa State and Baylor, face an uncertain future as outcasts from major-conference football.

Imagine, the Jayhawks, who won the Orange Bowl just two years ago, and K-State, winner of all those games under Bill Snyder and Vince Gibson, cut adrift from traditional games, college bowls and all that. Even KU being a perennial basketball power doesn't seem to count for much.

Neither does more than a century of tradition, dating back to the days of the Big Six and Big Seven, known formally then as the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association. The league dates itself to 1907, though some of the individual rivalries go back much farther, to the dawn of football as we know it.

What happened? Call it greed, maybe. Call it money, for sure. Call it television.

Maybe the trouble began when the Big 8 saw a chance to grow by scooping up the four biggest and best members of the former Southwest Conference: Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor.

That left the rest of the conference out of a league, of course, but who cared if the Big 8 schools would prosper? Money and greed trumped tradition.

Then the new Big 12 voted to move first its offices and then its tournament to Dallas, leav-

ing Kansas City to fend for itself. The tournament did return this year, but the center of action certainly shifted south.

Now, forces are pulling apart the Big 12, and having abandoned many of the old traditions, it lacks new ones to bind its members.

The Big 10 may want Nebraska and Missouri, both original Big Six members. If they go, the story has it, the southern football powerhouses, including maybe the three Texas schools and Oklahoma, might join a vastly expanded Pac 10 conference. That would leave poor Baylor, the only private university in the Big 12, plus weaker sister football schools like Kansas, K-State and Iowa State, without a home.

No "big-time" conference would have them. And it's way too late now to appeal to tradition. Money has entered the room.

What will happen is anybody's guess. With the kind of television money being bandied about — as much as \$20 million a year for a Big 10 contract, for instance — it's hard to see the Big 12 schools sitting still. Not unless the league can come up with some cash of its own.

Kansas and Kansas State have vowed to work together to save their own skins, but their chances for success may not be bright. Few major colleges can raise money without success on the field. And state support continues to drop.

Are the Kansas universities and their kin reaping the wages of sin?

That may depend on how you value history, tradition and big-time college sports money. Only time will tell.

— Steve Haynes

## Hangin' With Marge

Trying to adjust

By Margaret Bucholtz



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The coats are finally off and the yard work is in full swing. I keep trying to keep up with the weeds, but it is a little difficult.

My new knee is working great. I can do about anything I want except getting down on my hands and knees.

I know I have mentioned before that hoeing is out of the question - the weeds just stand up and wave

at me the next morning so I pull each one of them.

Dr. Holmes told me there was two things I couldn't do—I cannot crawl on my hands and knees and I can't squat so that leaves me with sitting on the ground. He told me to sit on my seat and scoot.

Now I have to watch for any cars that might be going by because I really don't want anyone to think I have worms!

Yesterday when Kurt and I were out in the garden, I was scooting along and I asked him if I looked like a dog with worms.

He told me, "No, because a dog goes forward and you can only scoot backwards."

Made me feel a little bit better, and then again maybe it just means I do that backward like I do a lot of things.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Bud Selig, baseball's commissioner, got it right.

By now most everyone has heard of the "blown call" by an umpire that cost Armando Galarraga a perfect game.

Replays showed that the Cleveland Indian runner was out. That out would have given Galarraga the second perfect game this season. But umpire Jim Joyce saw it differently.

Great class and sportsmanship, which are rare commodities in pro sports these days, were shown by the official and player.

Joyce, after seeing a replay, realized that he had made an error. He admitted he was wrong and apologized to all involved, especially Galarraga. In turn, the pitcher accepted that his achievement had been taken away. He

didn't yell, scream, jump up and down and play the victim.

After this, I was worried that the commissioner would change the outcome with his powers. Luckily he didn't.

I have trouble seeing an owner, which Selig is with the Milwaukee Brewers, as commissioner. Clearly his interests are not going to be impartial. They can't be. At some point he will have to favor the side of the owners. But that is a subject for another column.

But in this instance he did well in doing nothing.

Baseball is a game of passion and human qualities. It is much like watching a Greek tragedy. By

its nature and design there will be more losses than wins. If a batter hits three out of nine balls, he is considered a success.

Failing is a part of baseball. The same can be said for life. Life isn't always fair. In fact, we live in an often harsh and brutal world. Get used to it and make the best of it.

So Selig did the correct thing. The game will go on and Galarraga, Joyce and the other characters will strive to do their best in the future. Even though failure will be the norm.

Just ask a Chicago Cubs fan.

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**The Lord looketh from heaven;**  
**he beholdeth all the sons of men.**  
**From the place of his habitation**  
**he looketh upon all the inhabitants**  
**of the earth.**  
**Psalms 33:13, 14**

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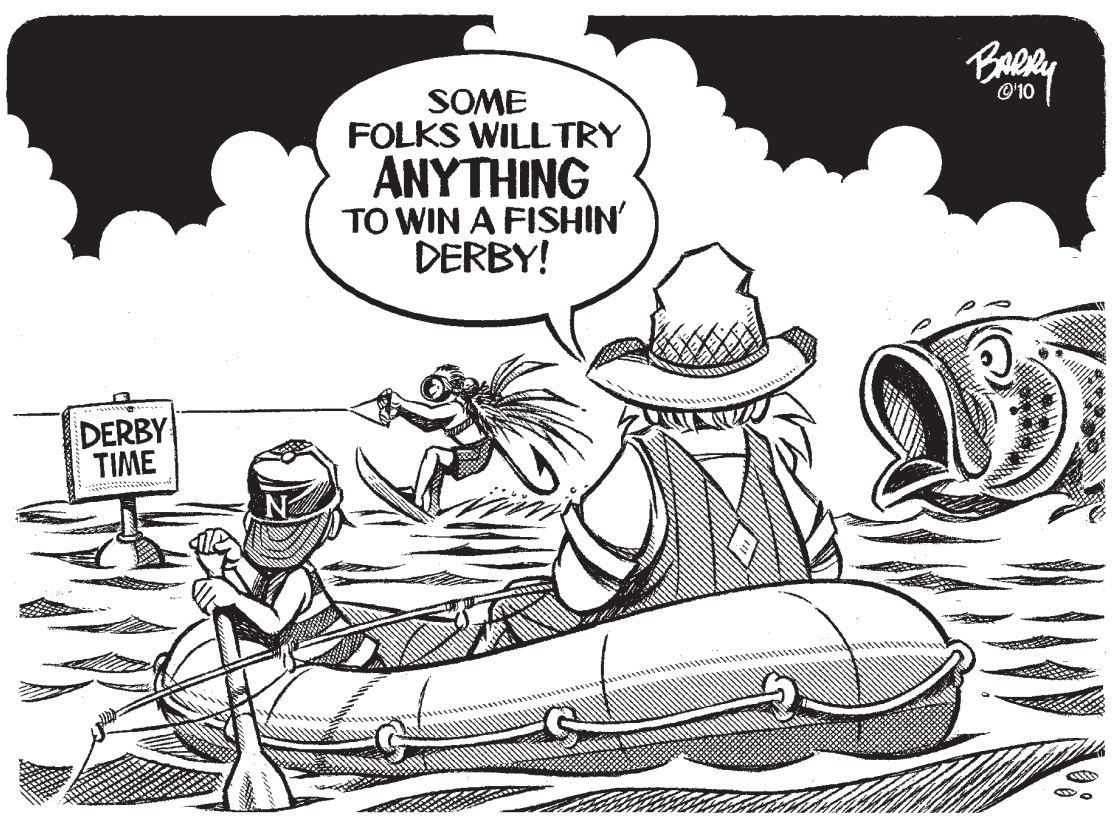
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## News From the Past

### 100 years ago - 1910

The sidewalk on the north side of the main street is going in a pace and will soon reach the depot.

W.R. Knight is the proud possessor of an automobile.

L.J. Willits' new Buick arrived this week and they are taking their first ride in it this evening.

Complaints of cut worms are beginning to come to this office already this spring. It seems probable that the farmers of the county will be obliged to organize in order to stamp out this pest.

The talk in some quarters of

the near establishment of regular travel routes for air ships is probably nothing more as yet than the imagination of some enthusiastic aeronauts. Judging from the numerous mishaps to both navigators and machines the day for passenger travel by an aeroplane or balloon is still remote.

The Western Union is putting on another wire on the line from Orleans to St. Francis.

There will be a Masquerade Ball at the St. Francis hall on Saturday evening. Suits and masks can be rented at J.H. Egan's.

The county diploma examinations are over. The result is a class

of 18 prospective high school students. Their graduation from the common schools would be a great event indeed, if everyone of the 18 would push on through the Cheyenne County high school.

The stone work on Abram Riddell's new store building is finished and it makes quite an imposing structure and an addition to the town.

### 90 years ago - 1920

The Schneider Garage has again caught the improvement fever. They are enlarging their office quarters and will use part of the extra space for a supply room of parts and repairs.

## Visitor enjoys time in St. Francis

### Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have to write this letter after a wonderful visit to my hometown. I am so impressed with several things that are always available. You have a fantastic facility and staff at the Senior Citizens facility, you have a CLEAN park and town, the cemetery looked wonderful for the Memorial Day Weekend, and I was greeted and helped by the staff at the Cheyenne County Historical Museum quickly and very professionally.

I want all those who get this paper to know about these great attributes to this great little Northwest-ern Kansas town and check them out while in town.

Special note about the Museum: as I had heard about it, but never visited it before. I was able to locate and verify information about Great-Grandparents. I did not know if it was true. So if you are into genealogy, go investigate, it is

worth a trip.

Mother, Arrilla Zimbelman, thinks this would be her last trip as it was a long one for her at almost 92, but we so enjoyed the visits with our wonderful family and friends in that town and I in Bird City also to attend a friend's funeral.

Thank you for being there and being REAL!!!!

Cathy O'Leary Rigby  
Farmington, Ark.

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<p><b>Church of Christ</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church</b>          625 S. River • 332-2680          Fr. Roger Meitl          Sunday Mass 10 a.m.          Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.          Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b>          2nd &amp; 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.</p>
<p><b>United Methodist</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Salem Lutheran Church</b>          332-3002          Pastor Chris Farmer          Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.          Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Community Church</b>          332-3150          204 N. Quincy Street          www.sfccfamily.com          Pastor: David Butler          Sunday School 9:15 a.m.          Worship Service 10:30 a.m.          Potluck &amp; Communion -          Every 2nd Sunday          Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b>          785-890-5718 • 3rd &amp; Adams          Pastor Jerry Nowack          Sabbath School 9:30          Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Solid Rock Baptist Church</b>          412 S. Denison          Welcomes You!          Pastor Allen Coon          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30          Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC</b>          202 N. College          Pastor Ken Hart          332-2928 Pars. 332-2312          Worship 9:30 a.m.          Fellowship Time Following          Worship          Communion 1st Sunday          of the Month</p>
<p><b>First Christian Church</b>          Pastor Jeff Landers          332-2956 • 118 E. Webster          Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.          Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Equity</b></p>	<p><b>St. Francis Herald</b></p>