



Let's look for better way to select court judges

Is it wrong to want the Kansas Supreme Court to be more responsive to the will of the people?

Apparently. Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican candidate for governor, is taking some heat this week for comments that the process for selecting justices could stand some reform.

The Democratic candidate, Sen. Tom Holland, ridiculed his opponent. An Associated Press analysis piece claimed that his comments meant Mr. Brownback was on the far right.

Anyone who's watched Sam Brownback's political career knows he's a conservative, of course. He's never tried to hide his beliefs. But he keeps getting elected by big margins, so there have to be a lot of people voting for him. Maybe most of them don't like abortion or big government - or left-leaning judges - either.

The Kansas Supreme Court raised a lot of questions about its objectivity when it forced the Legislature to add more than \$1 billion to school spending a couple of years ago. Many people, some of them far to the right, others more moderate, criticized the court exercising powers that a lot of them saw as belonging to the Legislature under the state Constitution.

The real questions here are, is the selection process for the court fair and democratic and would changing the process restore some sense of humility to the justices?

Kansas Supreme Court justices hold their jobs until they die or retire. While theoretically, voters could remove a justice by simply voting against him or her during every-six-years "retention" votes, the truth is, no Kansas justice has been removed by that process.

In districts where judges still run for election, voters can and do remove a judge now and then. Usually, the issue is based on performance on

the bench, not a judge's political views or decisions. But everyone agrees, the electoral process makes judges think about how they handle issues.

The point is not to bend judges to the will of the voters, but to force them to at least consider it. Unpopular decisions sometimes are what a case calls for, after all.

With the Supreme Court, the selection process has been changed until it's anything but democratic. The governor gets three names to choose from, selected by a panel dominated by lawyers which meet and take votes in secret. If the governor fails to act, the chief justice gets to choose for him or her.

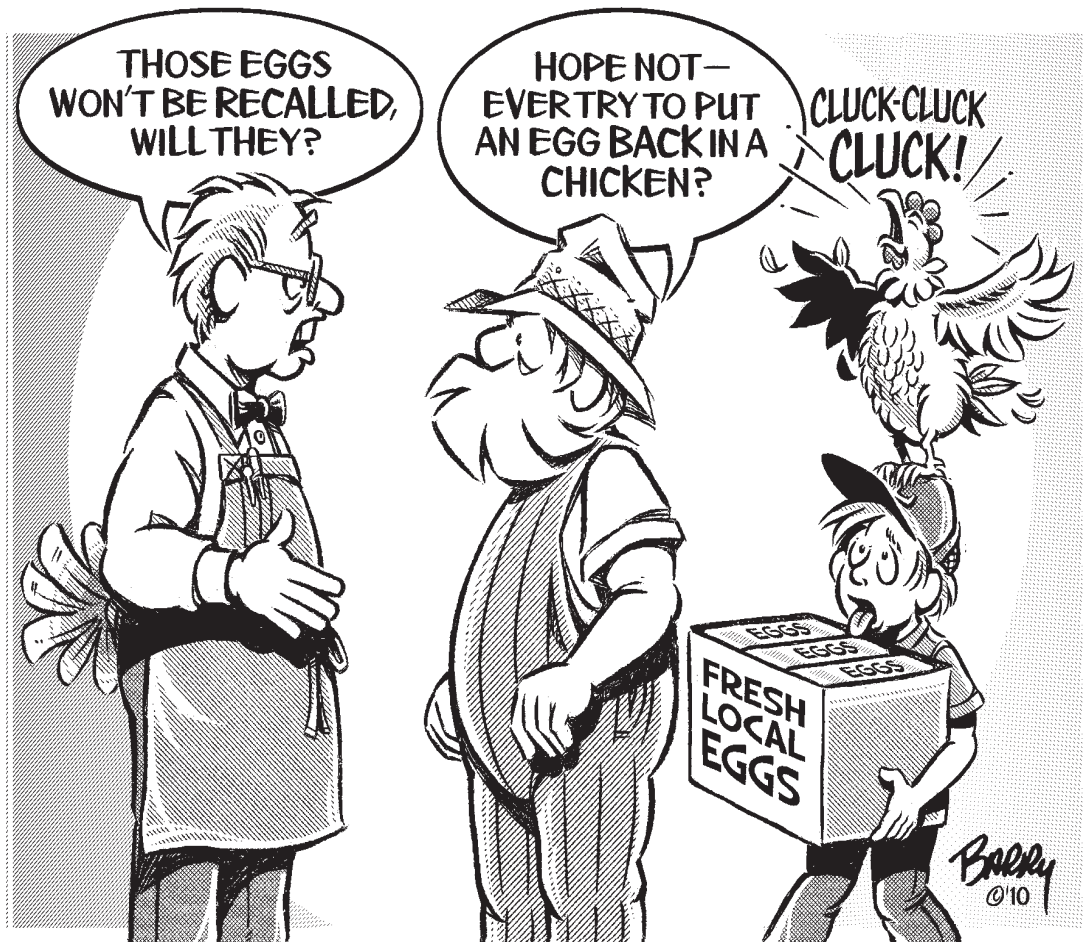
The people have no say, no voice. A federal lawsuit challenging the system was filed this summer, but a decision could be years away.

One proposal for change is to let the state Senate vote on the governor's nominees. Similar to the way federal Supreme Court justices are selected, this plan could at least provide a forum for public comment and push the process closer to the center. No one doubts today that the court leans to the left.

However, pro-school forces made sure that an amendment to change the selection process went nowhere in the Legislature the last few years. Courts are not supposed to be about one side or the other, however, but about the Constitution and the law.

So, Sen. Brownback has a lot of company when he questions the court selection process. If that makes him right-wing, so be it.

But many, including this newspaper, think it's high time the court is called to account for its decisions. Perhaps with a Republican governor, something will be done. - Steve Haynes.



News From the Past

40 years ago - 1970

There are nine new teachers on the faculty of the St. Francis schools this fall including Ward Cassidy, junior high social science and coach; Gloria Cassidy, elementary; Mary Jo Bixler, high school physical education and journalism; Virginia Raney, elementary; Ruth Ann Yeary, art and junior high home economics; Judy Raile elementary; Bertha Brooks, high school economics and Marsha Squires, elementary. Bill Bixler, junior high science and coach, will be arriving when he finishes his military obligation.

Enrollment in the St. Francis schools is down 50 this year from the figures for the first day of school a year ago. The high school enrollment is 236, down 24 from a year ago. There 55 seniors. The junior high shows a drop of 18 and the grade school shows a drop of 40 from two years ago.

Regular services have begun in a new mission church at the corner of Denison and Webster. The name chosen for the new congregation is the First Baptist Church of St. Francis.

Attendance tickets at the Cheyenne County Fair are on sale for a blue, four door, 1960 Convair which will be won the final night of the fair.

Candidates for the Cheyenne County Rodeo Queen include Linda Keller, Patty Price, Judy Boyington, Peggy Bowns, Connie Brunswig, Orian Burr, Lois Krein, Cathy O'Leary and Patty Waters.

Five new teachers have been hired for the new school term. They are William Showalter, who will teach social studies in the seventh and eighth grade and coach football, wrestling and assist with other sports, Patsy Showalter, who will teach one section of the fifth grade, Dennis Bruns, who will teach all of the junior high science classes and coach basketball, track and assist with other sports, William Caywood who

will be in one section of the sixth grade for half a day and teach English in the seventh and eighth grades the rest of the day and Evelyn Caywood, who will have one section of the first grade.

Lampe Hardware paid the top price, \$40 cwt., for Clinton Schleppe's Reserve Champion 4-H beef at the annual auction. Gary Lamb did not offer his Grand Champion beef at the sale.

Ninety-five boys and girls participated in the 4-H Style Revue this year. The theme was "Elections."

W.O. "Bill" Clark will retire his position as city clerk this fall. He has served in that capacity since 1955.

Elmer Felzien has announced that the Grand Opening of the new Majestic Service on Highway 36 will be held Aug. 26 and 27. The new service station, garage, new and used car display rooms and offices will all be open for inspection.

Hangin' With Marge

Harvest Time

By Margaret Bucholtz



I realize harvest has been over for a while now, but I didn't have time to tell you about my harvest experience.

For the last couple of years now I really haven't had to drive the truck. Yippy, I have moved on!!!

When we started cutting wheat I did offer to help out in a pinch. I knew that everyone had been trying to get that wheat cut and because of rain, I realized the lines might get pretty long.

The very first day it happened so I crawled in the truck and Kurt came over and told me how he had changed the hydraulics and he had cut a block wood to put as a wedge into this and the list just went on and on. I left wondering if I could remember how to do everything and really was pretty nervous.

When I got there, sure enough the lines were long and I knew I would be there for awhile. At first

I tried to just remember how to unload, but as I sat there a little longer I got to thinking about how harvest used to be when I was a kid.

Gary and I would love to get in the harvest field. Mom would drive the old green truck and we would ride along. While Dad would cut the wheat, Gary and I would get in the truck box and cover each other up or pretend we were swimming and not once did I remember of either of us complaining about itching.

Then my mind went on to the dumping of the wheat back then. We would get out of the old truck and someone would drive it onto a lift and they would raise the front of the truck as there was no hoist on the boxes. In line there would be a few people hauling their wheat in pickups, however most did have an old truck but all the boxes on those trucks were small.

As farm technology grew, almost everyone had a hoist so the elevators took out the ramps that lifted the trucks.

Now as I sat in our old truck I realized that we are like the people who hauled their wheat in pickups as most of the farmers today have a semi.

Finally the time for daydreaming was over and it was my turn to dump. I pulled in and tried to remember what Kurt had told me to do. I got the hoist pulled out, the block of wood on and then I lifted the handle. NOTHING! Kurt had told me if this happened to push the handle back down and jerk it up. I did that still, NOTHING. I repeated the steps and this time I jerked it really hard, which allowed the back side of my hand to tear the skin away on the door.

I was beginning to panic as I opened the door to jerk it one more time I saw a guy coming toward me. It was then I remember to take my foot off of the clutch.

The box went up and I could relax and tell myself "good job" Margaret! But my hand was a little sore so I didn't have to drive again.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Robert Van Allen, Wheeler; Shirley Younts, Shawnee; Carol Hansen, Salina; Craig Schoenrogge, St. Francis; Guy Gholston, Bonham, Texas; John Nelson, Ellisville, Mo.; Craig Brent, St. Francis; Greg Cooper, St. Francis; Travis Larsen, Hutchinson; Martin Church, St. Francis; Benjamin Neitzel, Boulder, Colo.; Bill Smith, St. Francis; Dara Loyd, Hays; Sarah Kinzer, St. Francis; Randy Rueb, St. Francis; Don Gilliland, Bird City;

GOD SAYS
My son, forget not my law;
but let thine heart keep my
commandments: For length of
days, and long life, and peace,
shall they add to thee.
Proverbs 3:1, 2

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I've been thinking lately. This alone can be dangerous for a Scot-Irish-American. That sort of behavior usually leads to revolutions, mistakes or some other undesirable outcome. But this one is pretty tame.

Have you ever noticed how people can be like food?

I don't mean the obvious as in shaped like something edible. If

that were the case I suppose I'd be a pair or some other funny shaped fruit.

What I'm getting at is how, as an individual vegetable, meat or spice, each can be okay on it's own. But if you put the right few together, then you have magic.

Not all combinations work. Some people can be a bit bitter or possibly too heavily flavored. Peoples tastes are allowed to differ.

I suppose that is why we are at-

tracted to folks who appeal to our senses. Just like a favorite dish may be what is requested on special occasions, so are the companions who are known to make you satisfied.

Again, this is only a thought or two from a U.S.C. (United States Celt.) Perhaps it will give you a little food for thought.

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