

Opinion

Free Press Viewpoint



All it takes is a telephone call

We just hit the send button and we assume the e-mail showed up wherever we sent it to.

But considering what happened with S&T Communication's e-mail system last week, that was another reminder of how we need to follow through with all forms of communication.

A computer virus infected S&T's system and wreaked havoc on thousands of its customers. Reports have been customers were only able to read incoming e-mails and not able to send one out, to people not able to read their incoming e-mails and send one.

It messed up the *Free Press* too. We missed notes and information from advertisers who are S&T customers, only to receive their e-mails after S&T had their system repaired and back in action. By that time, it was too late to get things in certain editions of the paper. We know how those people feel, because we assume our e-mails reach their destination too.

Computer hackers around the world are constantly creating new computer viruses to mess up the world's fastest growing communication system. Some people create the virus just for the thrill, while others have been suspected of starting a cyber form of terrorism.

Computer and e-mail program manufacturers are trying to stay one step ahead of the disturbed people by creating programs that block viruses attached to e-mails.

E-mail is still a relatively new form of communication. Initially created for the government decades ago, the system has been available commercially for more than 10 years. The growth of spam, (junk e-mails) has been another battle for e-mail recipients.

But despite the latest, nastiest e-mail virus (another one is supposedly out today) and the onslaught of spams about great deals on pharmaceuticals, there is still one tool that can ensure an e-mail was sent and received — the telephone.

It may be a hassle, but a telephone call confirming the information, can't be messed up by an e-mail virus.

— John Van Nostrand, publisher

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

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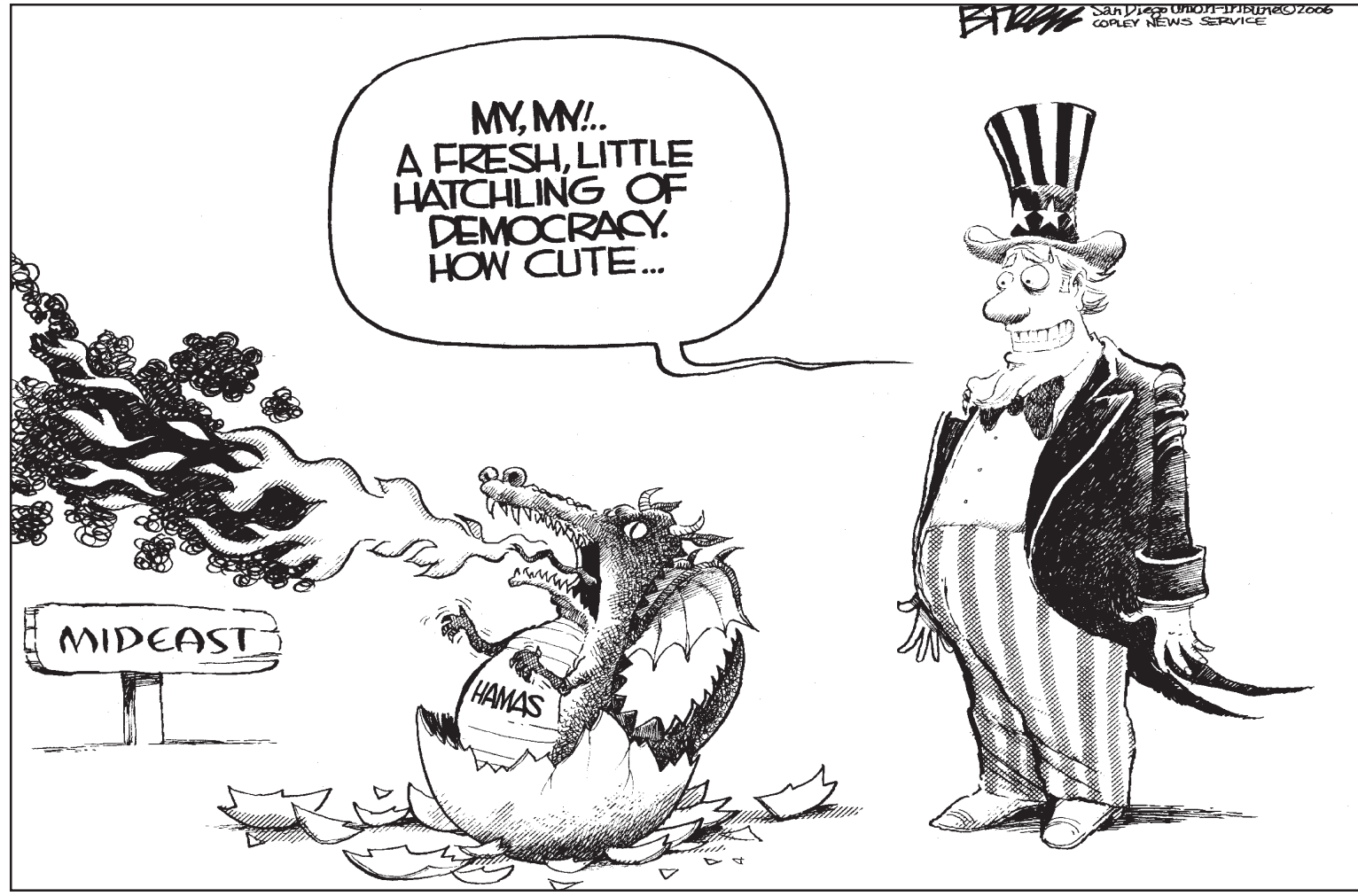
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Nor'West Newspapers

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What do you remember?

The calendar shows that spring is getting closer and before we know it, another group of young people will be graduating from high school.

It didn't seem that long ago that I walked across the stage and picked up my diploma, but actually it was 36 years ago — the class of 1970. After picking myself up off the floor and wondering where the time has gone, it got me to thinking about something a friend sent.

I don't think the intent was to make me feel older, yet after reading this list of things people starting college this fall will have no recollection of was unbelievable.

For me, many of the people, places and things mentioned just don't seem that long ago.

So, just in case you weren't feeling too old today, maybe this might put things in perspective. College-age freshmen this fall were born in 1987-88 and probably have no idea of the following:

Here's the list:
• They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan era and probably did not know he had ever been shot.

• They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged.

• Black Monday, 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression.

• They were 6 years old when the Soviet Union broke apart and do not remember the Cold War.



Patty Decker

• Deep Thoughts

- They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.
- Tianamen Square means nothing to them.
- Bottle caps have always been screw and plastic.
- Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums.
- The expression *you sound like a broken record* means nothing to them.
- They have never owned a record player
- They may have never heard of an eight-track. The compact disc was introduced when they were one-year-old.
- As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 39 cents.
- Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black and white TV.
- They have always had cable.
- They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

control.

• They don't know what a cloth baby diaper is, or know about the "Help me, I've fallen and I can't get up" commercial.

• Roller skating has always meant inline for them.

• Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show

• They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool.

• Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

• They have never seen Larry Bird play

• The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WWI, WWII and the Civil War.

• They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

• They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

• They never heard: "Where's the beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel," or "De plane, de plane!"

• They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J.R. was.

• The Titanic was found?

• McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.

• There has always been MTV.

Decker is editor at the Free Press.

Your turn

Situation needs sorted out

Jack Kriss Colby, Kan.

Mr. Kelley, please clarify.

I had already submitted a couple of articles to this newspaper when I read Jay Kelley's remarks in the January 26 newspaper. I will not usually react immediately to others' opinions on this subject, whether they agree or disagree with me, because I'll have written several articles ahead of time, and I'll have an outline for several more. I will address Kelley's arguments in due time, not now.

However, I believe his article includes some erroneous implications I'd like to correct right away. Accordingly, I've asked the editor to print this ahead of my other article.

Most, or at least much, of Kelley's article may be of a general nature, but in one paragraph he says: "To compare the belief in creation to astrology, numerology...while claiming to be a follower of Jesus is...unhelpful..." He does not use my name (why not?), but since I am the person who recently talked about astrology, etc., in my little introductory offering, I must presume, as most readers will, that he is referring to me (or, if you prefer, to my article).

However, first, I did not compare belief in creation to belief in astrology, etc. Rather, I compared the teaching of creation in science classes for the purpose of "balancing" presentation of the subject, to teaching astrology, etc., for the same purpose. This so called "balancing" was claimed as a motive by state school board members. I think it is an utterly ridiculous thing for them to say, so I applied a little sarcasm. This may be a somewhat subtle distinction, but I think most of my readers will recognize it as being really different than how Jay Kelley took it. I certainly would have expected Kelley to under-

stand. It is also an apt comparison. Creation, astrology and numerology all have believers and none are science. They should not be taught in science class. My sarcasm, by the way, was directed at the school board to mock the silliness of their balanced presentation idea, and not at the belief of or the believers in creation.

And, secondly, I did NOT, in that article or in any print media, claim myself to be a follower of Jesus. During several months, while I was considering this project, and before I wrote my first article, I decided that the details of my personal religious faith are not pertinent to my arguments, and I determined to avoid even revealing them, insofar as possible. There will probably be more than ten of these articles and at no time will I claim to be a follower of Jesus, nor will I disavow Him. If Mr. Kelley is ascribing any such claims to me, as follows from his references to astrology, I certainly resent it and want a clarification.

In the same paragraph Kelley says, "to do so and then use microevolution as proof for evolution in general is either dishonest or ignorant." Since this statement is in the same paragraph where he refers to my remarks on astrology, numerology, etc., he seems to refer to me here also. But how can Mr. Kelley think I said anything remotely like that? I used the word evolution once - I said: "the Creationists' intent is to cast serious doubt on evolution..." I never used the words microevolution or macroevolution or the word species or anything even close to what Kelley seems to be ascribing to me.

In his next paragraph, Kelley says, "...in either case..." (in the case I'm dishonest or in the case I'm ignorant) "it reveals a mindset that is unwilling to look openly upon that which might challenge one's traditions."

Mr. Kelley, you put words in my mouth, and then determined my mindset according to these words. And, Mr. Kelly, are you chiding me for having a closed mind? In fact, I try pretty hard to keep my mind set on "open but guarded." But, isn't your mind clenched tight against entertaining any possibility that the Theory of Evolution might be correct?

I always read your opinions, Mr. Kelley, and have believed you to be honest and rather straightforward. (I frequently agree with you on other subjects.) Based on the respect I've developed for you in the past, I'm assuming that you did not intend to make the allegations most people will read into your remarks, even though it's hard for me to understand how you made such errors. So, I strenuously request that you clarify your meaning. If you were not referring to me or my article in paragraphs six and seven of your January 26, 2006 article, then please say that you were not. If you were referring to me or my article, I must challenge you to substantiate your allegations by directly quoting me. It would be patently unfair to pick out and mention a couple of flag words to refer your readers to a person (in this circumstance, to me), then make whatever assumptions you like about the person who used those words. It might be okay if your readers had a copy of my article at hand, but we both know that few of them will have such a copy. So give the quotes that you think justify your assumptions. This brings me to a suggestion I make to my readers in an article not yet in print. I'll iterate it here.

I hope that readers who are at all interested in this discussion will clip and save all articles on all sides of the subject. Such a collection would really help sort out situations like this.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

